



Daily Reflections

November 20, 2018

Scripture

Luke 19: 1-10

At that time Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature.

So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.

When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."

And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

When they saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord,

"Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."

And Jesus said to him,

"Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek

and to save what was lost."

Our Scripture Reflection

Of all the people Jesus could have noticed that day as He was walking through the town of Jericho, it was the short little man up in the Sycamore tree. Why Zacchaeus? Because he had humbled himself. He was a very wealthy and powerful man in the community who had a Roman guard at his beck and call. He knew, however, that he was a sinner. He knew he had disobeyed God and failed to truly love his fellow man. But he also knew Who it was that had the power to make him right. Because of his humility and faith, salvation arrived at Zacchaeus' house that day.

Food for your Journey

There's an old saying that goes all the way back to Ignatius of Antioch in the first century: "Where Christ is, there is the church."

Notice Ignatius doesn't say, "Where the church is, there is Christ." Christ is in the ghettos, the barrios, the favelas -- wherever there are hungry, thirsty, rejected or imprisoned people. He is at the dinner table of a family who's having a hard time making ends meet. He's with a mother who's the victim of domestic violence. He's with frightened homeless people during their first night in a shelter. He's even with a tax collector in a sycamore tree. If we want to seek him, these are the places we are most likely to find him.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, I am a sinner who is in need of Your mercy and compassion. Cleanse and heal my heavy heart, Lord. Strengthen my faith and give me the Grace to avoid sin. Amen