



Daily Reflection

November 23, 2018

Scripture

Luke 19: 45-48

Jesus entered the temple area and proceeded to drive out those who were selling things, saying to them,

"It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."

And every day he was teaching in the temple area.

The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people, meanwhile, were seeking to put him to death,

but they could find no way to accomplish their purpose because all the people were hanging on his words.

Our Scripture Reflection

What an irony Luke illustrates for us as he compares and contrasts the attitude of the religious leaders with the attitude of Jesus. Jesus gives His all no matter the threat to proclaim His Father's Kingdom. He will not be deterred. On the other hand, the jealous, mean-spirited religious leaders can only think of killing Jesus. What a vivid contrast between Light and darkness.

Food for your Journey

"When Mother Teresa first began her work among the dying on the streets of Calcutta, India, she was obstructed at every turn by government officials and

orthodox Hindus, who were suspicious of her motives and used their authority to harass her and to frustrate her efforts. She and her fellow sisters were insulted and threatened with physical violence. One day a shower of stones and bricks rained down on the women as they tried to bring the dying to their humble shelter. Eventually Mother Teresa dropped to her knees before the mob. 'Kill me!' she cried in Bengali, her arms outstretched in a gesture of crucifixion, 'And I'll be in heaven all the sooner.' The rabble withdrew but soon the harassment increased with even more irrational acts of violence and louder demands were made of officials to expel the foreign nun in her white sari, wearing a cross around the neck.

"One morning, Mother Teresa noticed a gathering of people outside the nearby Kali Temple, one of the holy places for Hindus in Calcutta. As she drew closer, she saw a man stretched out on the street with turned-up eyes and a face drained of blood. A triple braid denoted that he was of the Brahmin caste, not of the temple priests. No one dared to touch him, for people recognized he was dying from cholera.

"Mother Teresa went to him, bent down, took the body of the Brahmin priest in her arms and carried him to her shelter. Day and night she nursed him, and eventually he recovered. Over and over again he would say to the people, 'For 30 years I have worshipped a Kali of stone. But I have met in this gentle woman a real Kali, a Kali of flesh and blood.' Never again were stones thrown at Mother Teresa and the other sisters."

--Donald J. Shelby,

"Weakness and Power,"

22 December 1991, Santa Monica, California. .

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are the Light of world. Your Light illumines the darkness in our world and dispels it. Help me, Lord, to walk always as a child of the Light. May I seek Your way and live it faithfully. Amen