



Daily Reflections

November 27, 2018

Scripture

Luke 21: 5-11

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Then they asked him,

"Teacher, when will this happen?

And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?"

He answered,

"See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.'

Do not follow them!

When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end."

Then he said to them,

"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky."

Our Scripture Reflections

It seems that in our highly technological society people are always looking for solutions to and saviors for life's problems. That was the case in Jesus' day as well. Many messianic pretenders were teaching and preaching and all attracted crowds, initially at least. But once they were exposed as frauds, the crowds simply moved on to the next pulpit. Today, it seems that we have made high self-esteem the messiah. Notice how many speeches, teachings, and articles use the words "self" or "self-esteem." Until we realize and accept what AA has taught for many years we will continue to be disillusioned:

1. There is a God
2. It ain't me

If you want your life to be right, says Jesus over and over again, shrink your ego and become humble.

Food for your Journey

In Daniel Patrick Moynihan's memorable phrase, deviance has been dumbed down. Everybody has a deviance they need to "open up," and the rest of us are supposed to be a "support group" for their deviance. Is there anybody out there who doesn't have a support group?

"Healthy" and "sick" have replaced "good" and "evil."

Dennis Prager tells of one day playing in the park with his 2-year-old son. A 5-year-old boy walked over to him, threw him onto the concrete. The 5-year-old's mother rushed over to her son and demanded: "Honey, what's troubling you?"

Where is the reprimand? Where is the sense of wrongness to throw another human being to the ground, or away?

Self-esteem is now deemed more important to teach our children than self-control. In fact, in a recent book called *Evil: Inside Human Cruelty and Violence* (New York: W. H. Freeman, 1997), Roy Baumeister has found four "root characteristics" of the most violent criminals. One of them is "high" self-esteem. Parents that focus all their rearing on building "high self-esteem" are increasing the likelihood of creating a criminal child.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You taught many times that those who exalt themselves will be humbled. Help me, Lord, to follow Your way of genuine humility. May I ignore the teachings of the world and surrender my life to You. Amen