



Daily Reflections

December 9, 2018

Scripture

Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar,
when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,
and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee,
and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region
of Ituraea and Trachonitis,
and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,
during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,
the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.
John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:
A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Our Scripture Reflection

St. Luke is a master teacher who is very organized and faith-filled as he writes about the traditions he has received from eyewitnesses about Our Lord Jesus. In today's Gospel text, he locates the advent of Jesus within the context of both the Jewish and Roman (Gentile) world. St. Luke wants his readers to know that Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection will have a world-wide impact. God wants all people to be saved. May this wonderful news cause us to experience great joy.

Food for your Journey

The loss of joy does not make the world better - and, conversely, refusing joy for the sake of suffering does not help those who suffer. The contrary is true. The world needs people who discover the good, who rejoice in it and thereby derive the courage and impetus to do good.

We have a new need for that primordial trust which ultimately faith can give. That the world is basically good, that God is there and is good. That it is good to live and be a human being. This results, then, in the courage to rejoice, which in turn becomes commitment to making sure that other people, too, can rejoice and receive good news.

-Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Salt of the Earth* (Ft. Collins, Colo.: Ignatius Press, 1997), 36-37.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Your birth brought joy to many people. During this holy season may I experience that joy as I focus on Your love for me. Help me, Lord, to be a witness to that joy as I celebrate with my family and friends. Amen