



Daily Reflections

December 10, 2018

Scripture

Luke 5: 17-26

One day as Jesus was teaching,
Pharisees and teachers of the law,
who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem,
were sitting there,
and the power of the Lord was with him for healing.
And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed;
they were trying to bring him in and set him in his presence.
But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd,
they went up on the roof
and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles
into the middle in front of Jesus.
When Jesus saw their faith, he said,
"As for you, your sins are forgiven."
Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves,
"Who is this who speaks blasphemies?
Who but God alone can forgive sins?"
Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply,
"What are you thinking in your hearts?
Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,'
or to say, 'Rise and walk'?
But that you may know
that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—

he said to the one who was paralyzed,
"I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home."
He stood up immediately before them,
picked up what he had been lying on,
and went home, glorifying God.
Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God,
and, struck with awe, they said,
"We have seen incredible things today."

Our Scripture Reflection

In addressing the mean spirited comments of the Pharisees and scribes, one can see some humor in Jesus' question to them: "Which is easier...to forgive or to heal"? Actually, both are exclusively divine prerogatives, actions that ONLY God can do. Because of their pettiness, they miss a great revelation of God's power through His only Son standing in their midst.

Food for your Journey

St. Thomas Aquinas told a story of a man who heard about a very special ox. The more he heard about the ox, the more he determined to have it. He traveled all over the world. He spent his entire fortune looking for this ox. At last, just moments before he died, he realized that he had been riding on that special ox even as he traveled the world to look for it.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, During this wonderfully holy season of Advent, may I recognize and rejoice in Your Presence in every prayer, carol and act of kindness towards those who are in need. Amen