



Daily Reflections

December 13, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 11: 11-17

Jesus said to the crowds:

"Amen, I say to you,
among those born of women
there has been none greater than John the Baptist;
yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
From the days of John the Baptist until now,
the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence,
and the violent are taking it by force.

All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John.

And if you are willing to accept it,
he is Elijah, the one who is to come.

Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Our Scripture Reflection

And what is a prophet you may ask?? A prophet was a messenger sent by God who was a hard-lined conservative. The role of the prophet was to preach to the leadership and the people, who had gone astray and turned their backs to the commandments of God. Many, including John the Baptist suffered violence and even death. People wanted to have it their way and not to follow God's way. The Advent season calls us through the voice of John and all the

great prophets to “prepare the way” by seeking and living faithfully, God’s Way.

Food for your Journey

There are several tests out there that offer Christians a chance to show how much they really know about Christmas. It’s easy to get tripped up and think there were three wise men standing next to the manger, or that the Little Drummer Boy was there, too. But these tests are challenges of the details of the story, and do not speak to the spirit of it. Mastery of the facts isn’t what Christmas is about; the Advent season is one where the mystery of God’s love is opened to us as we progress toward Jesus’ birth.

That wonderful line of Kierkegaard comes to mind: “It is so much easier to become a Christian when you aren’t one than to become one when you assume you already are.”

We need to use the Advent season to immerse ourselves in a sense of joy and gratitude and constant wonder.

A Prayer from the Heart

Holy Father, I hear many sounds during this holy season: the voices of friends, the sounds of carols and the bells all around. Help me, Lord, to focus on the voice of The Baptist which calls me to prepare a way for my Savior. May I clear and clean out my heart so that I may be completely open to receive Him with joy. Amen