



Daily Reflections

January 3, 2019

Scripture

John 1: 29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said,
"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

He is the one of whom I said,
'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me
because he existed before me.'

I did not know him,
but the reason why I came baptizing with water
was that he might be made known to Israel."

John testified further, saying,
"I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky
and remain upon him.

I did not know him,
but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me,
'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain,
he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

Our Scripture Reflection

Only in St. John's beautiful Gospel do we hear the phrase, "The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Why? Because when St. John reflects upon what he saw Jesus do and say, and especially, how He suffered and

died, he could not help but make the connection between what Jesus did and its effects on the world. It is quite revealing that St. John sees Jesus death on the cross. In his Gospel, Jesus dies not on the Feast of Passover, but rather, on the Feast of Parasheve, the day before Passover when the paschal lambs were slaughtered. For St. John, Jesus was innocent, like the lamb, and gave His life for all. Through His death and resurrection His people have the offer of forgiveness and new life. What a wonderful thought to carry into this new year.

Food for your Journey

Never fear periods of darkness in life. They are the atrium to new phases of life, the threshold to new experience, the invitation to move on from where you are to where there is more for you to learn.

--Joan Chittister, *Light in the Darkness: New Reflections on the Psalms for Every Day of the Year* (Crossroad, 1998).

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You offer me forgiveness of sins and a chance for a new life. Help me to see in this new year the opportunity for a fresh start, a new beginning in You. Amen