



Daily Reflections

January 7, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-25

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested,
he withdrew to Galilee.

He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea,
in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,
that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet
might be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,
the people who sit in darkness
have seen a great light,
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death
light has arisen.

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say,
"Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

He went around all of Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom,
and curing every disease and illness among the people.

His fame spread to all of Syria,
and they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases
and racked with pain,
those who were possessed, lunatics, and paralytics,

and he cured them.

And great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him.

Our Scripture Reflection

It's always amazing to watch how our God turns events that we might call tragedies or heartbreaks into His purposes. The arrest of John the Baptist serves as the occasion for Jesus to return to His village of Nazareth in Galilee. Galilee was known as "Galilee of the Gentiles" or in other words, non-Jewish territory. There Jesus will begin His public ministry to those who "lived in darkness", people considered by pious Jews to be outcasts. There Jesus will become their light, their promise and hope for salvation.

Food for your Journey

Things happen for a reason. Sandra Harris always believed that, but even more so after a gardening accident helped save her life.

The 68-year-old Modesto retiree was trimming trees when her hands slipped, causing a pair of heavy pruning shears to fall on her chest. After the swelling went down a few days later, she noticed an abnormality on her breast.

It turned out to be stage 2 breast cancer. The tumor was nearly 4 centimeters. ...

Her "accident" probably saved her life. Harris and her doctors decided in March of 2014 that she should take oral chemotherapy for several months to shrink the tumor before surgery. When she had surgery in January, she said her tumor was about 2.7 centimeters. ...

During the ordeal, she found comfort in her family and faith, embracing the love and prayers that were sent her way in her time of need. She also met a new member of her church congregation that she didn't know before -- the receptionist at the doctor's office.

--Adapted from "Accident turns out to be a blessing in disguise," 21st Century Oncology Website, modesto.21co.com, July 23, 2015. Retrieved April 27, 2016.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, During these days and times when there is so little in our days, my heart longs for the light of the sun, and especially, for the light of the only Son. Be my light, Lord, especially during the times of anxiety, worry and doubt. Be near to me, Lord Jesus, fill my heart with Your love and guide me when I can't find my way. Amen