



Daily Reflections

January 26, 2019

Scripture

Mark 3: 20-21

Jesus came with his disciples into the house.
Again the crowd gathered,
making it impossible for them even to eat.
When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him,
for they said, "He is out of his mind."

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's scripture is the most unflattering reading in all of the Gospels. St. Mark in recording this story wants us to know that even those closest to Jesus had a difficult time with His teachings. Jesus personified the words of His Father to Isaiah the Prophet in Isaiah 55: 8-9: "My ways are not your ways, My thoughts are not your thoughts, says the Lord." Yes, His words can be difficult and even threatening to our way of thinking and living. But where has our way gotten us? No, sometimes we learn the hard way that only Jesus has the way that brings life and true peace to our souls.

Food for your Journey

One of the strangest diagnoses of mental illness is Jerusalem Syndrome. It's a form of psychosis affecting tourists who visit the holy city. Certain visitors to Jerusalem, who appear perfectly sane before their trip, suddenly begin to demonstrate religious delusions.

Common features of the disorder are an obsession with personal cleanliness, isolation from family, loudly declaiming Scripture passages in public and a feeling of having been singled out by God for some special service. A few have been known to don white robes made out of bed sheets from their hotel and begin preaching at holy sites within the city.

As serious as the disorder is, it often resolves itself soon after the sufferer has left Jerusalem and returned home.

For more, see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_syndrome. Retrieved December 8, 2014.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Teach me, mold me and form me with Your tender love into the disciple You have created me to be. May I have the wisdom to surrender completely to You. Amen