



Daily Reflections

January 28, 2019

Scripture

Mark 3: 22-30

The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said of Jesus,
"He is possessed by Beelzebul," and
"By the prince of demons he drives out demons."
Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables,
"How can Satan drive out Satan?
If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.
And if a house is divided against itself,
that house will not be able to stand.
And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided,
he cannot stand;
that is the end of him.
But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property
unless he first ties up the strong man.
Then he can plunder his house.
Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies
that people utter will be forgiven them.
But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit
will never have forgiveness,
but is guilty of an everlasting sin."
For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Our Scripture Reflection

How could the scribes say so viciously that Jesus was the devil, that His power derived from Satan?! All that He did was good. Many times He cast out Satan from poor, possessed men. There is a popular yet cynical saying: "No good deed goes unpunished." Jesus never did anything but good and so must we. He shows us, however, that there will always be selfish, mean-spirited people who will gossip and slander us and attack us at every turn. But we must not give up on doing good. Whenever this happens to you ask Jesus to help you to carry this cross, and He will.

Food for your Journey

Jesus took away our sins in the same way as a filter purifies water. A filter takes in impure water, holds the impurities inside of itself, and gives back only the pure water. It transforms rather than transmits.

We see this in Jesus: Like the ultimate cleansing-filter he purifies life itself:

- He takes in hatred, holds it, transforms it and gives back love;
- He takes in bitterness, holds it, transforms it and gives back graciousness;
- He takes in curses, holds them, transforms them and gives back blessing;
- He takes in chaos, holds it, transforms it and gives back order;
- He takes in fear, holds it, transforms it and gives back freedom;
- He takes in jealousy, holds it, transforms it and gives back affirmation;
- And he takes in Satan and murder, holds them, transforms them and gives back only God and forgiveness.

Jesus takes away the sins of the world in the same way a water-filter takes impurities out of water, by absorbing and holding all that isn't clean and giving back only what is.

--Ron Rolheiser, "The agony in the garden -- the place of transformation," April 4, 2004. <http://ronrolheiser.com>. Retrieved August 20, 2014.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, All I want to do is that which is good and pleasing to You. At times, Lord, people can be mean even when I try to love others. They accuse

me of selfish motives. But You, Jesus, know my heart. You know it is pure. Help me to buck up and be strong even when the attacks are hard to bear. Help me to pray for those who do me harm. Give me the resolve to do Your Will despite the cost. Amen