



Daily Reflections

February 12, 2019

Scripture

Mark 7: 1-13

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus,

they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.

(For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders.

And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves.

And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds.)

So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him,

"Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?"

He responded,

"Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites,

as it is written:

This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

in vain do they worship me,

teaching as doctrines human precepts.

You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition."

He went on to say,

"How well you have set aside the commandment of God

in order to uphold your tradition!

For Moses said,

Honor your father and your mother,

and Whoever curses father or mother shall die.

Yet you say,

'If someone says to father or mother,

"Any support you might have had from me is qorban"

(meaning, dedicated to God),

you allow him to do nothing more for his father or mother.

You nullify the word of God

in favor of your tradition that you have handed on.

And you do many such things."

Our Scripture Reflection

"Hypocrisy" is the charge that Jesus levels over and over again against the religious leaders and teachers of the day. Why? Because they behave as though they are simply actors on the stage of life rather than sincere, committed practitioners of the faith. They pay lip serve to the religious Laws and tradition, focusing only on external appearances. For Jesus, what we say and do must come from a converted heart. Sincerity and humility must be the fruits of religious living.

Food for your Journey

I have read Plato and Cicero sayings that are very wise and very beautiful, but I never read in either of them, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden."

_St. Augustine, quoted in

Student Leadership Journal

(Spring/Summer, 1994).

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Make me meek and humble of heart as I strive to live the Gospel of Jesus each day. May those who observe me desire what I have as His disciple. Amen