



Daily Reflections

February 24, 2019

Scripture

Luke 6: 27-38

Jesus said to his disciples:

“To you who hear I say,
love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

To the person who strikes you on one cheek,
offer the other one as well,
and from the person who takes your cloak,
do not withhold even your tunic.

Give to everyone who asks of you,
and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.
Do to others as you would have them do to you.

For if you love those who love you,
what credit is that to you?

Even sinners love those who love them.

And if you do good to those who do good to you,
what credit is that to you?

Even sinners do the same.

If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment,
what credit is that to you?

Even sinners lend to sinners,
and get back the same amount.

But rather, love your enemies and do good to them,

and lend expecting nothing back;
then your reward will be great
and you will be children of the Most High,
for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.
Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
"Stop judging and you will not be judged.
Stop condemning and you will not be condemned.
Forgive and you will be forgiven.
Give, and gifts will be given to you;
a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing,
will be poured into your lap.
For the measure with which you measure
will in return be measured out to you."

Our Scripture Reflection

One of the most refreshing scriptures I have discovered from the Old Testament is found in Isaiah 55:8: "My ways are not your ways, says the Lord...My thoughts are not your thoughts." With that passage in mind we can now make sense of Jesus' teaching in our Gospel text. Here Jesus calls us to live and think the exact opposite of how the world teaches us to think and live. Many will think Jesus' Way is wimpish or nuts. But what choice do we really have as disciples? If you're tired of feeling the way you've been feeling, then give Jesus' way a try. He will give you a peace that this world simply cannot give.

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 God, How wonderful are Your ways! How high they are above anything the human mind can consider or think. I ask that You give me the Grace to live according to Your heart's desire for me. Let me experience the wonders of Your ways. Amen