



Daily Reflections

March 5, 2019

Scripture

Mark 10: 28-31

Peter began to say to Jesus,
'We have given up everything and followed you.'
Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you,
there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters
or mother or father or children or lands
for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel
who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age:
houses and brothers and sisters
and mothers and children and lands,
with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.
But many that are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Our Scripture Reflection

There are some who have been called to give up everything for the sake of the Kingdom of God. This stance is known as "Radical Renunciation" and Mother Teresa was its personification. But for the rest of us, Lent calls us to examine our lives closely. What is your attitude towards what you have? Are you generous towards those who are struggling or in need? In putting others before ourselves we actually set ourselves free.

Food for your Journey

In our quest for comfortable Christianity, too many of us are happy with cheap grace - a discipleship which costs us precisely nothing. But how is this imitating Christ? In no way at all! We talk about our dependence on God - "Lord above, we depend on you," we sing. But we make damn sure that we don't need to.

Christianity isn't about feeling good about ourselves; it isn't about having our little psychological misalignments adjusted. These things are there, but we have mistaken what should be a side effect with the thing itself.

We are supposed to be full and running over, free of concern about our material goods, ready, pleased even, to lay them down. But we are too involved in our little spiritual games, where we say that we don't care about our possessions, nodding wisely when Paul says they are "dross." We may even think we mean it. But how many of us give up even a few of our pleasures because the money we would have spent on it we have given away?

How our spiritual fire is damped by things. How weighed down we are! I buy things I don't want to impress people I don't like. How good it would be to be able to let go of so many of these belongings! "Belongings" is a telling word: it is not the things which belong to us, but rather, it is we who belong to the things.

-Alister Pate, "Comfortable Christianity," Ship of Fools Online Magazine, December 1999

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Set me free from my over concern about the things in this world. May I come to an awareness during this Lenten season that You have always cared for me and You always will. May my being relax once and for all. Amen