



Daily Reflections

March 7, 2019

Scripture

Luke 9: 22-27

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised."

Then he said to all,

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus warns His disciples, "As goes the Master, so goes the servant." He never promises that following Him would be easy. To the contrary He describes it as carrying a cross. Crosses are heavy, painful and they have splinters, too. But the cross has the ability to set you free, if you are willing...

Food for your Journey

Traditional accounts of some of the first cross carriers:

1. John died of extreme old age exiled to the island of Patmos.
2. Judas Iscariot, after betraying his Lord, hanged himself.
3. Peter was crucified head down during the persecution of Nero.
4. Andrew died on a cross at Patrae, a Grecian colony.
5. James, the younger, son of Alphaeus, was thrown from a pinnacle of the temple, and then beaten to death with a club.
6. Bartholomew was flayed alive in Albanapolis, Armenia.
7. James, the elder son of Zebedee, was beheaded at Jerusalem.
8. Thomas, the doubter, was run through the body with a lance at Coromandel, in the East Indies.
9. Philip was hanged against a pillar at Heropolis.
10. Thaddeus was shot to death with arrows.
11. Simon died on a cross in Persia (what we now call Iran).
12. Matthew was first stoned and then beheaded.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, I have never been good at keeping difficult commitments. While I may complete them I get overwhelmed at times during the process. There is always the temptation to give up and run. Lord, give me the courage to pick up and carry my cross this day. Give me the Grace I need to be faithful and true. Amen