



Daily Reflections

March 9, 2019

Scripture

Luke 5: 27-32

Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me."

And leaving everything behind, he got up and followed him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were at table with them.

The Pharisees and their scribes complained to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus said to them in reply,

"Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners."

Our Scripture Reflection

Levi knew he needed help. Most important, he knew where to get that help. And look how he went about it: He walked away, completely gave up a very lucrative job as a tax collector. This really cost him a lot. But Levi knew it wasn't worth his immortal soul. What are you willing to give up this Lent for the sake of your soul?

Food for your Journey

Benedict Joseph Labré (1748-'83) chose a life of poverty, homelessness and destitution on the mean streets of 18th-century Rome quite deliberately. Rejected from four different monasteries, Labre — born in a prosperous French middle-class family — armed himself with a pair of rosaries, a New Testament, Thomas à Kempis' Imitation of Christ, and a breviary and spent the remainder of his short life as a pilgrim and a vagabond

His self-chosen outcast status notwithstanding, Labré's unfailing sweetness of temper and spiritual seriousness drew many to him, and he became an informal spiritual adviser to Romans of all classes. Within three months of his death, there were 136 claims of miraculous cures brought about by prayers directed to him, and by 1881 he had become a saint of the Catholic Church.

—Jon Spayde, "Sleeping in the streets for Jesus," Utne Reader, May-June 2002, 71.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, I get so caught up in living life that I lose sight of the fact that even if I were to live to be a hundred it's a drop in the bucket when compared to the life that never ends. Help me to re-adjust my focus. May I begin preparing for eternal life by growing more deeply in love with You. Amen