



Daily Reflections

March 20, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 20: 17-28

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem,
he took the Twelve disciples aside by themselves,
and said to them on the way,
"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem,
and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests
and the scribes,
and they will condemn him to death,
and hand him over to the Gentiles
to be mocked and scourged and crucified,
and he will be raised on the third day."

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached Jesus with her sons
and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something.

He said to her, "What do you wish?"

She answered him,

"Command that these two sons of mine sit,
one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom."

Jesus said in reply,

"You do not know what you are asking.

Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?"

They said to him, "We can."

He replied,

"My chalice you will indeed drink,

but to sit at my right and at my left,
this is not mine to give
but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."
When the ten heard this,
they became indignant at the two brothers.
But Jesus summoned them and said,
"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,
and the great ones make their authority over them felt.
But it shall not be so among you.
Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant;
whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.
Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Our Scripture Reflection

Many have wondered why Jesus chose such weak and sinful men to be His apostles. In today's Gospel text we read how He forecasts His horrible passion and death for the third time. And no sooner than the words are out His mouth the mother of James and John approaches Jesus, because they are too embarrassed to do so, to ask for high-ranking positions for her sons in His coming Kingdom! At this point in their apostolic career they are ignorant, selfish and self-centered. But when Jesus had first called them He could see into their hearts. He knew they possessed with the help of God's Grace the ability to do His will. And though they had a troubled start, after the resurrection they rallied and would go on to literally lay down their lives for Him. What a turn around story! Their story can be your story.

Food for your Journey

"When Michelangelo was a little boy, one of his friends gave him a small Greek sculpture of a human form, half chiseled from the marble. For the rest of his life, Michelangelo kept that little statue by his bed. It was the last thing he saw before he went to sleep, the first thing he saw when he awoke. For him it became a symbol of man's anguished effort to be liberated from the prison of his own ignorance. Michelangelo devoted his whole life to freeing figures from stone. Sometimes it would take him months, even years. Always he began with a vision of the man or the woman locked up in the stone. He said, 'It is my job, my task, to set that man, that woman, free.' Such was the

inspiration of the great man - and, indeed, such was the inspiration of the great movement, of which he was an exemplar - the Renaissance, as we call it today."

--George Ross,

"Let Us Live Before We Die,"

Akron, Ohio.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, The rigors of the Lenten season reveal just how weak I am at times. How, like James and John, I can betray Your Son in the smallest of ways. May I never become crippled by my disappointments and shortcomings. May I stop trying to go it alone, and instead, seek Your help at every turn. Make me holy, Lord. Amen