



Daily Reflection

April 3, 2019

Scripture

John 5: 17-30

Jesus answered the Jews:

"My Father is at work until now, so I am at work."

For this reason they tried all the more to kill him,
because he not only broke the sabbath

but he also called God his own father, making himself equal to God.

Jesus answered and said to them,

"Amen, amen, I say to you, the Son cannot do anything on his own,
but only what he sees the Father doing;

for what he does, the Son will do also.

For the Father loves the Son

and shows him everything that he himself does,

and he will show him greater works than these,

so that you may be amazed.

For just as the Father raises the dead and gives life,

so also does the Son give life to whomever he wishes.

Nor does the Father judge anyone,

but he has given all judgment to the Son,

so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father.

Whoever does not honor the Son

does not honor the Father who sent him.

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word

and believes in the one who sent me

has eternal life and will not come to condemnation,
but has passed from death to life.

Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here
when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,
and those who hear will live.

For just as the Father has life in himself,
so also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself.
And he gave him power to exercise judgment,
because he is the Son of Man.

Do not be amazed at this,
because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs
will hear his voice and will come out,
those who have done good deeds
to the resurrection of life,
but those who have done wicked deeds
to the resurrection of condemnation.

"I cannot do anything on my own;
I judge as I hear, and my judgment is just,
because I do not seek my own will
but the will of the one who sent me."

Our Scripture Reflection

The most confounding thing about Jesus for the Jewish authorities was the idea that He was God incarnate. From the time they could speak they were taught that there was only one God and that God dwelled in the heavens. That God could become a man...well that was just too much for them. They were neither willing nor able to make the leap of faith. And my friends, that problem is alive and well in our own day. However, for those of us who profess to be Christian, that is the core principle of our faith: God became man in Jesus Christ. May this Lenten season be a time for us to renew and deepen our faith in Jesus as our Lord and God.

Food for your Journey

James W. Sire wrote a book with the question, Why Should Anyone Believe Anything At All? ([Downers Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity Press, 1994], 95).

His basic answer was this: "Put simply, the best reason for believing that the Christian religion is true is Jesus, and the best reason for believing in Jesus is Jesus himself. That may sound strange. How can Jesus be a reason? ... Christianity, it turns out, is fundamentally about a person - the person of Jesus. Christianity proclaims that God has made himself known in many ways - through the Hebrews, through the events of history, through the shape and form of the universe itself, through visions and personal encounters with God. But he has most supremely made himself known in and through Jesus Christ."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, I am so grateful for my faith which holds that You became a man to save all people. And even though You are greater than the human mind can fathom, You are always "closer to me than I am to myself." I love You, Lord. Help me to live my love this day. Amen