



# Daily Reflections

**April 9, 2019**

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## Scripture

### **John 8: 21-30**

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

"I am going away and you will look for me,  
but you will die in your sin.

Where I am going you cannot come."

So the Jews said,

"He is not going to kill himself, is he,  
because he said, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?"

He said to them, "You belong to what is below,  
I belong to what is above.

You belong to this world,  
but I do not belong to this world.

That is why I told you that you will die in your sins.

For if you do not believe that I AM,  
you will die in your sins."

So they said to him, "Who are you?"

Jesus said to them, "What I told you from the beginning.

I have much to say about you in condemnation.

But the one who sent me is true,  
and what I heard from him I tell the world."

They did not realize that he was speaking to them of the Father.

So Jesus said to them,

"When you lift up the Son of Man,

then you will realize that I AM,  
and that I do nothing on my own,  
but I say only what the Father taught me.  
The one who sent me is with me.  
He has not left me alone,  
because I always do what is pleasing to him."  
Because he spoke this way, many came to believe in him.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

There is a question the Pharisees needed to ask themselves and ponder but they lacked the humility to do so. The question: Where is our way of thinking, believing and living getting us? Jesus tried to point out to them that their living "from below" was getting them nowhere and causing them to be miserable. If only they could have looked inside their hearts, made an honest evaluation and then....a leap of faith in Him. When we think we know it all we end up knowing nothing at all.

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## **Food for your Journey**

I came across a C.S Lewis quote this week that stopped me in my tracks: "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen; not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

For reasons I'm still puzzling out, the quote is feeding my soul. I've spent a long time now moving away from a version of Christianity I can no longer affirm in good faith -- Christianity as certitude, Christianity as fundamentalism, Christianity as a rabbit's foot, securing my safety and good fortune. All the while, I've tried to find an essential core that I can still hold, and that will hold me. I wonder now if C.S. Lewis's analogy is that core. What would it be like to accept Christianity, not primarily as a set of doctrinal claims, but as a lens? As a means of seeing? If my faith became my eyes, my light source, my sun, what sort of reality could I live into?

At every point, Christianity calls us to hold together truths that seem bizarre, counterintuitive and irreconcilable. Die to live. Pardon in order to be pardoned. Bless those who persecute you. And yet these seeming contradictions are what give the religion credibility and verisimilitude. If I live in a world that's chock full of contradiction, then I need a religion robust

enough and complex enough to bear the weight of that messy world. I need a religion that empowers me, in Richard Rohr's beautiful words, "to live in exquisite, terrible humility before reality. ..."

I am held and braced by a God who is too big for thin, one-dimensional truth. I am held in a deep place. A mysterious place. A high place. Of course, the light is different here. It's filtered, shady, complex. It requires more from my eyes -- more patience, more alertness. A longer gaze. But the view? The view is worth it. The view from this place is spectacular.

--Debie Thomas, "A Light to See By," Journey with Jesus for August 6, 2017. [journeywithjesus.net](http://journeywithjesus.net). Retrieved October 12, 2017.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, I was miserable when I attempted to live without You. I have come to realize that what I believe has an effect on every dimension of my life. Help me, Lord, to always remain close to You where I find true peace. Amen