



Daily Reflections

April 10, 2019

Scripture

John 8: 31-42

Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him,
"If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham
and have never been enslaved to anyone.
How can you say, 'You will become free'?"
Jesus answered them, "Amen, amen, I say to you,
everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.
A slave does not remain in a household forever,
but a son always remains.
So if the Son frees you, then you will truly be free.
I know that you are descendants of Abraham.
But you are trying to kill me,
because my word has no room among you.
I tell you what I have seen in the Father's presence;
then do what you have heard from the Father."
They answered and said to him, "Our father is Abraham."
Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children,
you would be doing the works of Abraham.
But now you are trying to kill me,
a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God;
Abraham did not do this.

You are doing the works of your father!"

So they said to him, "We were not born of fornication.

We have one Father, God."

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here;

I did not come on my own, but he sent me."

Our Scripture Reflection

For the Pharisees faith was all about logical propositions and arguments. It made no logical sense that God almighty, King and Creator of the universe and everything in it would or could possibly come down to earth as a mere man. They believed God was perfect but man was not. So how could Jesus the man be God? It just made no logical sense. But if our faith in Jesus was only a logical proposition, wouldn't that be boring? The beauty of the Christian faith is that at its core it makes no logical sense. Why would a perfect God want to become one of us? Why would He want to suffer and give His life for such an ungrateful people? It doesn't make good sense does it? And that's why God said through Isaiah the Prophet: " My ways are not your ways; My thoughts are not your thoughts." Thank God!

Food for your Journey

There is nothing like having a toddler around to make you question everything you think you know about words. My daughter is constantly mimicking us these days, both the good and the bad. She is trying on words for size, letting them emerge from her tongue just to hear what they sound like in her own voice. Day by day, her linguistic expeditions discover new lands and possibilities. On these journeys, she is discovering and creating a world at one and the same time. She is only three and a half years old. Our son is only a year and a half, but even he is reaching out to the world in monosyllabic words of his own creation. Every dog he sees, he wants to identify, to claim some sort of knowledge and insight that the whole world needs to know.

How do they even learn how to speak? We don't hand them a dictionary and ask them to read it and get back to us. We don't make lists of vocabulary words and drill them. We didn't sign them up for language classes. They simply listen and try. They simply experiment and mimic. But mostly, I think,

they see, experience and feel. They don't learn this marvelous world of words so much as they live into it.

But perhaps no word is more wonderful, more meaningful than "love." Few things are as affecting in this world than when my daughter tells me she loves me. And yet she can't possibly understand what she's saying, can she? Does she understand what love is? If I asked her what love is, she would only laugh at me and return to her toys. ...In the end, we may find that in the light of God's love, we are mere toddlers. We're not sure of the words we speak. We're not sure we know what we mean when we say love. But we sense it, we experience it, we know it but not in the way we know that two plus two is four. God has planted love in our hearts and called us to share that love with all we meet. So, go and love, even if you don't know what you're doing.

--Eric D. Barretto, "Lent and Love: A Reflection on John 3:16," HuffingtonPost.com. Retrieved October 10, 2017.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, When I ponder Your love for me it leaves me scratching my head. It's almost confounding. I treat You terribly at times, especially when I get caught up in my own world and forget about You. But when I mess up and retreat into prayer, You are there waiting on me. Forgive me, Lord, for my lack of patience and for my wishy-washy faith. May I become grateful for all that You are for me. Amen