



Daily Reflections

April 11, 2019

Scripture

John 8: 51-59

Jesus said to the Jews:

"Amen, amen, I say to you,
whoever keeps my word will never see death."

So the Jews said to him,

"Now we are sure that you are possessed.

Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say,
'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.'

Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died?

Or the prophets, who died?

Who do you make yourself out to be?"

Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is worth nothing;

but it is my Father who glorifies me,

of whom you say, 'He is our God.'

You do not know him, but I know him.

And if I should say that I do not know him,

I would be like you a liar.

But I do know him and I keep his word.

Abraham your father rejoiced to see my day;

he saw it and was glad."

So the Jews said to him,

"You are not yet fifty years old and you have seen Abraham?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you,

before Abraham came to be, I AM."

So they picked up stones to throw at him;

but Jesus hid and went out of the temple area.

Our Scripture Reflection

The old Prophet Simeon had prophesied that Jesus would be a "sign who would be opposed", and He certainly was. It's always amazing to me how He can bring out the very best in many people but He can also bring out the very worst in others. In today's Gospel we see the mean-spiritedness of the "holy" ones of Israel. Like their ancestors they are stubborn and unbelieving even after they have seen powerful signs from Jesus. Even though they held the position of "Teacher of Israel" they remain ignorant and blind.

Food for your Journey

The ten most destructive human behaviors according to livescience (May 13, 2011) are lying, craving violence, stealing, cheating, clinging to bad habits, bullying, artificially remaking our bodies, ie., cosmetic surgery, tattoos, and piercings, stressing, gambling, and gossiping.

Why people cling to bad habits is "not because they haven't gotten the information that these are big risks. We tend to sort of live for now and into the limited future -- not the long term," suggests Cindy Jardine of the University of Alberta. Instead, the reasons people engage in unhealthy behaviors have more to do with factors including innate human defiance, genetic predisposition to addiction, a need for social acceptance, justification, rationalization and misunderstanding of risks.

--livescience.com/14152-destructive-human-behaviors-bad-habits.html.

Retrieved December 7, 2013.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Cleanse my heart of all that is unholy and impure. Fill it instead with humility and love. Amen