



Daily Reflections

April 12, 2019

Scripture

John 10: 31-40

The Jews picked up rocks to stone Jesus.

Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of these are you trying to stone me?"

The Jews answered him,

"We are not stoning you for a good work but for blasphemy. You, a man, are making yourself God."

Jesus answered them,

"Is it not written in your law, 'I said, 'You are gods'"?

If it calls them gods to whom the word of God came, and Scripture cannot be set aside,

can you say that the one

whom the Father has consecrated and sent into the world blasphemes because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?

If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

Then they tried again to arrest him; but he escaped from their power.

He went back across the Jordan

to the place where John first baptized, and there he remained.

Many came to him and said,

"John performed no sign,
but everything John said about this man was true."
And many there began to believe in him.

Our Scripture Reflection

The Jewish authorities are so filled with envy, jealousy and anger towards Jesus that they keep contradicting themselves as they accuse Him. Where did Jesus' works (miracles) come from? The moon? Satan? HE is GOD and one with the Father. Rather than humble themselves in an attempt to understand, they attack. As tragic as this may seem, St. John knows it's all part of the plan.

Food for your Journey

Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch. Then the long collaboration fell apart.

It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days work," the man said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there. Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor, in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river levee, and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber curing by the barn? I want you to build me a fence — an 8-foot fence — so I won't need to see his place anymore. That'll show him."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger, and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town for supplies, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day.

The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing.

About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job.

The farmer's eyes opened wide. His jaw dropped.

There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge — a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all — and the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers met at the middle of the bridge, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have so many more bridges to build."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Your Son never promised that the road would be easy. He promised that the high road would lead to Heaven. Help me to walk the walk on the high road of faith so that I may find peace in this life and joy in the life that never ends. Amen