



Daily Reflections

April 19, 2019

Scripture

Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God,

let us hold fast to our confession.

For we do not have a high priest
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but one who has similarly been tested in every way,
yet without sin.

So let us confidently approach the throne of grace
to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

In the days when Christ was in the flesh,
he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverence.

So though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered;
and when he was made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Our Scripture Reflection

The Letter to the Hebrews really and truly nips in the bud any human attempt to argue that being holy and faithful is impossible. Jesus went through His

passion being tested in every way imaginable yet He remained totally faithful to His Father. With the help of God's Grace and by following Jesus' example may we do the same.

Food for your Journey

The painting of The Last Supper is said to have taken Da Vinci seven years to complete. Starting out, Da Vinci wanted to find the perfect Christ caricature for his portrait. Da Vinci always used real people in all his portraits and paintings, so he always searched for just the right "actors" to portray the realism he wanted to capture for his canvas.

According to the story, "hundreds and hundreds of young men were carefully viewed in an endeavor to find a face and personality exhibiting innocence and beauty, free from the scars and signs of dissipation caused by sin." Eventually, after searching for weeks, a young man of 19 years was found and selected. For the next six months, Da Vinci worked on the portraiture of Christ as he, the artist, saw him, the Messiah, in the face and demeanor of this young subject.

Now completed, Da Vinci settled himself into the task of searching for and capturing the faces of the other disciples around that table in the upper room. One by one, over the next six years, Da Vinci searched and worked.

Finally, the work had progressed to the point that there remained but one face left to find - that of The Traitor himself, Judas Iscariot. It was a face that the old master had purposefully left for last for any number of reasons. Now, near the end of his task, he went on a search not unlike the one he had at first - looking, scrutinizing, studying faces in endless crowds for just that one face - the face - that would tell the story behind the story.

His travels finally took him to a dungeon in Rome, where he had heard resided a man who was thought to be the epitome of what the artist was looking for. Upon introduction, Da Vinci realized his expectations were not disappointed. Indeed, here was a man of dark soul - a wretched, unkempt and vicious human. Yes, this was the perfect Judas!

By special order of the king, the prisoner was released into Da Vinci's care for the next several months. For both days and nights, the portrait was crafted into the scripted scene. The moment finally came when the portrait was completed and the prisoner was returned to the care of his incarcerators.

Turning to leave, Da Vinci suddenly found himself in the clutches of the prisoner crying out, "O, Da Vinci, look at me! Do you not know who I am?"

Upon studying the poor man closer, Da Vinci exclaimed that he did not know the man. "O, Da Vinci," the man cried louder, "I am your Christ!! I am the man you painted seven years ago as Christ! O, God, have I fallen so low?".

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, When I am tested beyond what I think I am able to endure, pour forth Your amazing Grace upon me. Rescue me from my doubts worries and fears and keep me Holy and true. Amen