



Daily Reflections

April 28, 2019

Scripture

John 20: 19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."
Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord."
But he said to them,
"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands
and put my finger into the nailmarks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."
Now a week later his disciples were again inside
and Thomas was with them.

Jesus came, although the doors were locked,
and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."
Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side,
and do not be unbelieving, but believe."
Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."
Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples
that are not written in this book.
But these are written that you may come to believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

Our Scripture Reflection

So many of us can understand Thomas "The Doubter." He had heard the eyewitness accounts of His Lord's horrifying death on Calvary. How could anyone die in such agony and be alive? It went against everything he had been taught and what he personally believed...at first. But then the Risen Lord appeared. He challenges Thomas to touch and probe but he will have none of it. Instead, he calls Jesus Lord and God. Please note: No one else in the entire Bible will call Jesus God, only the former doubter. What a turn around story!

Food for your Journey

I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw the name of the shop: THE TRUTH SHOP.

The salesgirl was very polite: What type of truth did I wish to purchase, partial or whole? The whole truth, of course. No deceptions for me, no defenses, no rationalizations.

I wanted my truth plain and unadulterated. She waved me on to another side of the store.

The salesman there pointed to the price tag. "The price is very high, sir," he said.

"What is it?" I asked, determined to get the whole truth, no matter what it cost. "Your security, sir," he answered.

I came away with a heavy heart. I still need the safety of my unquestioned beliefs.

--Anthony De Mello, *The Song of the Bird* (Random House, 1984), 88.

The Koontz family lost three children to diphtheria in the same week in the early 20th century. Only a 3-year-old girl escaped the disease.

On the following Easter morning, the father, mother and child attended their church in rural Nebraska. Because Conrad, the father, was the Sunday school superintendent, he led the session when all the classes met together. As he read the Easter message from the Bible, many were weeping, but the father and mother remained calm and serene.

When Sunday school was over, young Harry Lassiter, a local 15-year-old boy, was walking home with his father. "The Koontzes must really believe the Easter story," said the boy.

His father answered, "All Christians do, Harry."

"Not the way they do!" he said.

—Source unknown.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, When I look at how blessed my life has been, how could I ever entertain doubts? But I do during moments of weakness. Moving forward, Lord, when doubts arise may I immediately go back in my memory to those times when You rescued me. May I know beyond doubt that YOU ARE GOD!
Amen