



Daily Reflections

April 29, 2019

Scripture

John 3: 1-8

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

He came to Jesus at night and said to him,

"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him."

Jesus answered and said to him,

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born from above, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to him,

"How can a man once grown old be born again?

Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?"

Jesus answered,

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

What is born of flesh is flesh

and what is born of spirit is spirit.

Do not be amazed that I told you,

'You must be born from above.'

The wind blows where it wills,

and you can hear the sound it makes,

but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes;

so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Our Scripture Reflection

Nicodemus is deeply troubled about Jesus. His soul will not be at rest until he interrogates Him. But he must do so under the cover of darkness so as not to be exposed to his comrades on the Jewish executive council. He faced ridicule and rejection if he were to be discovered anywhere near Jesus. And like almost everyone else who hears Jesus, Nicodemus misunderstands what Jesus has to say. How can a man be born again? Jesus is not speaking literally. He is speaking about a life rooted in the Spirit. In other words, to know Jesus, to believe in Jesus, one must, through faith, be a part of God's realm, the realm of His Holy Spirit. That can only happen by surrendering one's mind and heart completely to God.

Food for your Journey

James W. Sire wrote a book with the question, Why Should Anyone Believe Anything At All? ([Downers Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity Press, 1994], 95).

His basic answer was this: "Put simply, the best reason for believing that the Christian religion is true is Jesus, and the best reason for believing in Jesus is Jesus himself. That may sound strange. How can Jesus be a reason? ... Christianity, it turns out, is fundamentally about a person - the person of Jesus. Christianity proclaims that God has made himself known in many ways - through the Hebrews, through the events of history, through the shape and form of the universe itself, through visions and personal encounters with God. But he has most supremely made himself known in and through Jesus Christ."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Remove all arrogance, haughtiness and self-centeredness from my heart. May I make a place for Your Son Jesus. With His Presence in my life may I be motivated to live the way of His Gospel each day. Amen