



Daily Reflections

May 14, 2019

Scripture

John 15: 9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

"As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy might be in you
and your joy might be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,
because a slave does not know what his master is doing.

I have called you friends,
because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

This I command you: love one another."

Our Scripture Reflection

In our culture love is understood to be merely an emotion and a warm and fuzzy one at that! That's not the kind of love that compelled Jesus to pick up His cross and head to Calvary. True love is rooted in a decision...a choice to sacrifice for the good of another. True love gives all without expectation of return or reward. What a gift!

Food for your Journey

A poem by Leigh Hunt (1784-1859) describes a man by the name of Abou Ben Adhem who had a dream. He awakened in the night, and there in his room was an angel of the Lord writing in a golden book.

He said to the angel: "What writest thou?"

The angel answered:

"...The names of those who love the Lord."

"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"

Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,

But cheerily still, and said, "I pray thee, then,

Write me as one that loves his fellow men."

The angel wrote and vanished. The next night

It came again with a great wakening light,

And showed the names whom love of God had blessed;

And, lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest!

When Adhem saw his name at the top of the list of those who love the Lord, he asked the angel what had happened.

"If we love not our brothers and sisters whom we have seen, how can we say we love God whom we have not seen?"

--Masterpieces of Religious Verse,

ed. James Delton Morrison

(New York: Harper and Brothers, 1948), 1286.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, When I think about the love Your Son Jesus had for me that compelled Him to shed His blood on Calvary, I am humbled. As I attempt to show my gratitude for His sacrificial gift, I ask for the Grace to be able to love others, especially the least in Your Kingdom. Amen