



Daily Reflections

May 17, 2019

Scripture

John 14: 1-6

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not,

would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him,

"Master, we do not know where you are going;

how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

Our Scripture Reflection

Good-byes are never really easy, especially when they involve someone we really care about. But John tells us Jesus' disciples were "troubled", a word with much more significant connotations than merely being sad. Their hearts were in turmoil and that was due to their lack of understanding and faith.

Rough days were ahead after they left the Last Supper table. Shock, disillusionment, fear, lies and cowardice were just around the corner. His passion and death really would become a cause for scandal (from scandalion = stumbling block). However, after His mission was completed, Peace would come to them. At the table, they asked for precise directions for it all from Jesus. He gave them none because the only way to it was through it.

Food for your Journey

Let not your heart be troubled. Notice three words, any one of which are worthy of emphasis. First, the word "troubled." The word evokes the image of a troubled sea when it is churning with unrest and confusion. Jesus doesn't say, "Let not your hearts be grieved or sad." He says, "Don't be ruffled and discomposed, don't be cast down and disquieted" (Psalm 42:5).

Second, the word "heart." Although country and city be troubled, although your little family and flock be troubled, yet let not your heart be troubled. Keep possession of your own souls when you can keep possession of nothing else. The heart is the main fort; whatever you do, keep trouble from this, keep this with all diligence. Your heart must be able to sustain the infirmity, so make sure that your heart is not wounded.

Third, the word "your." Jesus says, "You are my disciples and followers, my redeemed, chosen ones, set apart for service. Many others are overwhelmed with the sorrows of this present time, but not you because you know better; let the sinners in Zion tremble, "but let the sons of Zion be joyful in their king" (see Psalm 149.2). Herein Christ's disciples should do more than others -- they should keep their minds quiet, when everything else is unquiet.

--Paraphrased from commentary by Matthew Henry, Christian Classics Ethereal Library, ccel.org. Retrieved November 7, 2016.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Help me to realize that the only way to be a disciple of Jesus is to "just do it." May I learn His desires by reading His holy word and then put His word into practice each day. Amen