



Daily Reflections

May 21, 2019

Scripture

John 14: 27-31

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give it to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me tell you,

'I am going away and I will come back to you.'

If you loved me,

you would rejoice that I am going to the Father;

for the Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you this before it happens,

so that when it happens you may believe.

I will no longer speak much with you,

for the ruler of the world is coming.

He has no power over me,

but the world must know that I love the Father

and that I do just as the Father has commanded me."

Our Scripture Reflection

The word that Our Lord uses for Peace is much richer than the word used in our western culture. Our commonly used word is rooted in the Latin "Pax" which means an absence of war or violence. It's the fragile "calm in the midst

of the storm" or a "don't rock the boat", maintain the status quo kind of peace. The word that Jesus uses, however, comes from the Hebrew root "Shalom" which connotes wholeness. Another way of describing Shalom is based on the idea that everything is in its proper order, it's God-intended place. To arrive at Shalom, basic human needs must be met and things must be right between each person, one with the other, and between each person and God. No wonder Jesus describes it as something entirely different from the peace that the world gives.

Food for your Journey

Erma Bombeck tells about her attempts to live up to others' expectations of her: "I did as I was told. I was fussy about my peanut butter, fought cavities, became depressed over yellow wax buildup I was responsible for my husband's underarms being protected for 12 hours. I was responsible for making sure my children had a well- balanced breakfast. I alone was carrying the burden for my dog's shiny coat We believed if we converted to all the products that marched before our eyes, we could be the best, the sexiest, the freshest, the cleanest, the thinnest, the smartest and the first in our block to be regular. Purchasing for the entire family was the most important thing I had to do."

--As cited in Tom Sine,

Live It Up! (Scottsdale, Pa.:

Herald Press, 1993), 24.

The Holy Spirit doesn't give you fresh breath or shining hair. The Holy Spirit gives you the loving presence of Christ's peace in your life.

Try to find that on sale in the supermarket.

A Prayer from the Heart

Lord Jesus, I offer you this new day because I believe in you, love you, hope all things in you, and thank you for your blessings.

I am sorry for having offended you and forgive everyone who has offended me.

Lord, look on me and leave in me peace and courage and your humble wisdom that I may serve others with joy, and be pleasing to you all day.

Amen—St. Francis of Assisi.