



Daily Reflections

May 23, 2019

Scripture

John 15: 9-11

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."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus teaches us that the life of faith is a simple thing and something that can bring great joy. All it takes is to love, without condition or expectation of reward. In doing so we always receive more than what we set out to give.

Food for your Journey

Mary Ann Bird wrote a short story entitled "The Whisper Test." It is a true story from her own life.

"I grew up knowing I was different, and I hated it. I was born with a cleft palate, and when I started school, my classmates made it clear to me how I

must look to others: a little girl with a misshapen lip, crooked nose, lopsided teeth and garbled speech.

"When schoolmates would ask, 'What happened to your lip?' I'd tell them I'd fallen and cut it on a piece of glass. Somehow it seemed more acceptable to have suffered an accident than to have been born different. I was convinced that no one outside my family could love me.

"There was, however, a teacher in the second grade that we all adored -- Mrs. Leonard by name. She was short, round, happy -- a sparkling lady. Annually, we would have a hearing test. I was virtually deaf in one of my ears; but when I had taken the test in past years, I discovered that if I did not press my hand as tightly upon my ears as I was instructed to do, I could pass the test. Mrs. Leonard gave the test to everyone in the class, and finally it was my turn. I knew from past years that as we stood against the door and covered one ear, the teacher sitting at her desk would whisper something and we would have to repeat it back ... things like, 'The sky is blue' or 'Do you have new shoes?' I waited there for those words which God must have put into her mouth, those seven words which changed my life. Mrs. Leonard said, in her whisper, 'I wish you were my little girl.'"

--As told by Spencer Morgan Rice,

"The Drama of God,"

Trinity Church,

Boston.

A Prayer from the Heart

God, bless to me this day,

God, bless to me this night;

Bless, O bless, Thou God of grace,

Each day and hour of my life;

Bless, O bless, Thou God of grace,

Each day and hour of my life.

God, bless the pathway on which I go;

God, bless the earth that is beneath my sole;

Bless, O God, and give to me Thy love,

O God of gods, bless my rest and my repose;

Bless, O God, and give to me Thy love,

And bless, O God of gods, my repose. Amen

--Saint Brendan the Voyager, Irish monk (484-577).