



Daily Reflections

June 10, 2019

Scripture

John 19: 25-34

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother."

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst."

There was a vessel filled with common wine.

So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished."

And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first
and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.
But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,
they did not break his legs,
but one soldier thrust his lance into his side,
and immediately Blood and water flowed out.

Our Scripture Reflection

John records an amazing detail about Jesus not found in the other Gospels. Whereas, Mark and Matthew record the agonizing words of Jesus immediately before He dies, "My God, My God, Why have You forsaken me?", those words are not found in John's account. Instead, he pictures Jesus on the cross, calm and totally in control, saying simply, "It is finished." Why? Only in John is Jesus pictured as God Almighty (1:18, 20: 28). Jesus came to fulfill the Divine plan for our salvation. Death had no power over Him. To Him is the power and glory forever!

Food for your Journey

Augustine, the great fifth century church father, comments on the significance of the women who stood at the cross of Jesus: "As they were looking on, so we, too, gaze on his wounds as he hangs. We see his blood as he dies. We see the price offered by the redeemer, touch the scars of his resurrection. He bows his head, as if to kiss you. His heart is made bare open, as it were, in love to you. His arms are extended that he may embrace you. His whole body is displayed for your redemption. Ponder how great these things are. Let all this be rightly weighed in your mind: As he was once fixed to the cross in every part of his body for you, so he may now be fixed in every part of your soul."

—Don Schwager, "The cross of Jesus Christ,"
rc.net/wcc/readings/john19.htm. Retrieved October 3, 2002.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, You suffered and gave Your life for me so that when I close my eyes for the last time I will see light, not darkness. Help me to imitate Jesus

Who feared nothing. Like Jesus may I put all of my trust and hope in You.
Amen