



Daily Reflections

June 17, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 5: 38-42

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You have heard that it was said,

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.

When someone strikes you on your right cheek,
turn the other one to him as well.

If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic,
hand him your cloak as well.

Should anyone press you into service for one mile,
go with him for two miles.

Give to the one who asks of you,
and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow."

Our Scripture Reflection

Before our Lord came into this life the mode of revenge was known as "Clan retribution." Under that system if a member of one clan was harmed or killed by a member of a rival clan, then the clan that had suffered the injury had the right to wipe out completely the offending clan, with no mercy! When Moses Law was put into effect, it actually mitigated the practice of Clan retribution. One clan could only inflict equal injury on an offending clan: Eye for eye, tooth for tooth. But Jesus mitigated Moses' Law completely. He

eliminated retribution entirely. The true disciple is to be patient and to bear with the injury inflicted by another out of love and mercy. What a cross to carry! Jesus taught us how to do so.

Food for your Journey

"The soul would have no rainbows if the eyes had no tears." (Native American proverb) Forgiveness can be difficult, and sometimes it causes us to tear up (in disgust, in fear, in hurt, in anger). But if we allow the tears to come -- if we work through that which plagues us -- sometimes there are rainbows to be had.

A Prayer from the Heart

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.