



Daily Reflections

June 19, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Take care not to perform righteous deeds
in order that people may see them;
otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father.
When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you,
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets
to win the praise of others.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you give alms,
do not let your left hand know what your right is doing,
so that your almsgiving may be secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites,
who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners
so that others may see them.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door,
and pray to your Father in secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites.
They neglect their appearance,
so that they may appear to others to be fasting.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.
But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,
so that you may not appear to others to be fasting,
except to your Father who is hidden.
And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus detested hypocrisy. Faith is for serious people because it comes with a real cost. Simply going through the motions in order to win the approval of others is disingenuous. To be a true disciple, one must be willing to give all that one has to offer in imitation of Our Lord and Master Who gave His very life.

Food for your Journey

"The road is too rough," I said,

"Dear Lord, there are stones that hurt me so."

And he said, "Dear child, I understand;

I walked it long ago."

"But there's a cool green path," I said;

"Let me walk there for a time."

"No child," he gently answered me,

"The green path does not climb."

"My burden," I said, "is far too great;

How can I bear it so?"

"My child," he said, "I remember the weight;

I carried my cross, you know."

But I said, "I wish there were friends with me

Who would make my way their own."

“Oh, yes,” he said, “Gethsemane

Was hard to bear alone.”

And so I climb the stony path,

Content at last to know

That where my Master had not gone,

I would not need to go.

And strangely then I found new friends,

The burden grew less sore;

And I remember — long ago

He went that way before.

—Olga J. Weiss.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Believing in You entails a serious commitment to Your Son Jesus. Time and time again, He calls us to pick up our cross and follow in His footsteps. Please give me all the strength and courage I need to do so with love and faith. Amen