



Daily Reflections

June 24, 2019

Scripture

Luke 1: 57-66, 80

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son.

Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her.

When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John."

But they answered her,

"There is no one among your relatives who has this name."

So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed.

Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God.

Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea.

All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?"

For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit,
and he was in the desert until the day
of his manifestation to Israel.

Our Scripture Reflection

And the people asked: "What, then, will this child be?" All of the Gospels picture John the Baptist as the last great Prophet of the Old Testament period who was sent to "prepare the way for the Lord." And like many of the Prophets who dared to speak God's word in troubled times, he paid with his life. The risk of suffering and death could not deter the true Prophet. The call to speak was overwhelming to them.

Food for your Journey

Prophet means "spokesman," not "fortuneteller." The one whom in their unfathomable audacity the prophets claimed to speak for was the Lord and Creator of the universe. There is no evidence to suggest that anyone ever asked a prophet home for supper more than once. ...

The prophets were drunk on God, and in the presence of their terrible tipsiness, no one was ever comfortable. With a total lack of tact, they roared out against phoniness and corruption wherever they found them. They were the terror of kings and priests. ...

No prophet is on record as having asked for the job. When God put the finger on Isaiah, Isaiah said, "How long, O Lord?" (Isaiah 6:11), and couldn't have been exactly reassured by the answer he was given. Jeremiah pleaded that he was much too young for that type of work (Jeremiah 1:6). ...

Like Robert Frost's, a prophet's quarrel with the world is deep down a lover's quarrel. If they didn't love the world, they probably wouldn't bother to tell it that it's going to hell. They'd just let it go.

--Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC* (Harper & Row, 1973), 73-75.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, There are times when at the level of my heart, I feel Your call to witness to Your way. But who am I other than an unfaithful sinner? I am unworthy. Yet Lord, You still call me and trust me to speak. Keep me humble and focused on Your will rather than my ego. Amen