



Daily Reflections

June 27, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 7: 21-29

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the Kingdom of heaven,
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Many will say to me on that day,
'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name?
Did we not drive out demons in your name?
Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?'

Then I will declare to them solemnly,
'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.'

"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.
But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine
but does not act on them
will be like a fool who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, the floods came,
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.
And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

When Jesus finished these words,

the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus is lashing out at a group of charismatic preachers who are using His name to lend credibility to their work but who have no relationship with Him. Jesus sends the message to them that surface level familiarity with His name will not guarantee entrance into His Kingdom. Only those who are committed to Jesus as their "Rock", who have built their life on Him as their foundation will make it into His Kingdom. Or in other words, "Don't talk the talk unless you are walking the walk."

Food for your Journey

Why can we not come to terms with our being transformed into the likeness of Christ until Christ lives within us? M. Scott Peck, in his recent book, tells of a conference where he and Harvey Cox both spoke.

[Cox] told the story of Jesus' being called to resuscitate the daughter of a wealthy Roman. As Jesus is going to the Roman's house, a woman who has been hemorrhaging for years reaches out from the crowd and touches his robe. He feels her touch and turns around and asks, "Who touched me?" The woman comes forward and begs him to cure her and he does, and then goes on to the house of the Roman whose daughter had died.

After telling the story, Cox asked this audience of 600 mostly Christian professionals whom they identified with. When he asked who identified with the bleeding woman, about a hundred raised their hands. When he asked who identified with the anxious Roman father, more of the rest raised their hands. When he asked who identified with the curious crowd, most raised their hands. But when he asked who identified with Jesus, only six people raised their hands.

Something is very wrong here. Of 600 more or less professional Christians, only one out of a hundred identified with Jesus. Maybe more actually did but were afraid to raise their hands lest that seem arrogant. But again, something is wrong with our concept of Christianity if it seems arrogant to identify with Jesus. That is exactly what we are supposed to do! We're supposed to identify

with Jesus, act like Jesus, be like Jesus. That is what Christianity is supposed to be about -- the imitation of Christ.

--M. Scott Peck, *Further Along the Road Less*

Traveled: The Unending Journey Toward Spiritual Growth

(Simon & Schuster, 1993), 210.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, I have committed my life to Your Son Jesus and I, therefore, have nothing of which to be afraid. May all of my words and actions flow from my relationship with "The Rock." Amen