July 1, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 8: 18-21
When Jesus saw a crowd around him,
he gave orders to cross to the other shore.
A scribe approached and said to him,
“Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”
Jesus answered him, “Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests,
but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head.”
Another of his disciples said to him,
“Lord, let me go first and bury my father.”
But Jesus answered him, “Follow me,
and let the dead bury their dead.”

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus’ response to the would-be disciple who asked that he be allowed to first
go and bury his dead father seems harsh: “Let the dead bury the dead.”
Jesus, of course, is not being disrespectful to the grieving man. He is
concerned, however, about the man’s ability to handle the rigors of
discipleship given his compromised mental, emotional and spiritual state. He
had just lost his dear Dad! Another way of expressing Jesus’ message to the
man would be, “Let those who are spiritually dead bury the physically dead.”
Only those who are locked on and fully alive have the ability to follow Jesus
without distraction. Discipleship costs.
Food for your Journey

The confidence proper to a Christian is not the confidence of one who claims possession of demonstrable and indubitable knowledge. It is the confidence of one who has heard and answered the call that comes from the God through whom and for whom all things were made: "Follow me."


A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Please give me all of the Grace I need to get behind Your Son Jesus and follow Him. Keep me free of all distractions. May I focus exclusively on His desires for me. Amen