July 20, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 12: 14-21
The Pharisees went out and took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place. Many people followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known.
This was to fulfill what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet:
Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I shall place my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope.

Our Scripture Reflection

Please note: Our Lord did not withdraw to a safe location because He was a coward. He withdrew because it was not yet “His time.” And even though He
moves out of the public forum, He continues to minister to the needs of the sick and hurting. He stays on mission at all times. What an example for us!

**Food for your Journey**

Mary Clarke was once a Beverly Hills beauty, comfortable with luxury and a weekend beach home. Then a divorce caused her to toss out her middle-aged American life and start again — in the late 1970s, she crossed the border into Tijuana.

According to The Washington Post (April 10, 2002), she traded her sparkling gowns for the black habit of a Catholic nun, her English for Spanish, and her Los Angeles home for a Mexican prison cell. For a quarter-century now, this woman known as “Sister Antonia” has been the Prison Angel of Tijuana, a tiny woman who ministers to the miserable.

Her mission is practical, focused on providing aspirin, eyeglasses, false teeth and bail to petty thieves and impoverished convicts. She washes and prepares for burial the mutilated bodies left in gutters by drug gangs. She sings in the prison chapel to lift the spirits of the depressed. She counsels rapists and drug dealers ... as well as prison guards.

She brings good news to the poor, in surprising ways. Just as her Messiah did before her.

**A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, It is so easy to get distracted from the work I must do in the name of Jesus. So many things compete for my attention. Keep me focused, Lord. May I always put Jesus and His way first. Amen