October 15, 2019

Scripture

Luke 11:37-41

After Jesus had spoken, a Pharisee invited him to dine at his home. He entered and reclined at table to eat. The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not observe the prescribed washing before the meal. The Lord said to him, “Oh you Pharisees! Although you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, inside you are filled with plunder and evil. You fools! Did not the maker of the outside also make the inside? But as to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you.”

Our Scripture Reflection

Contrary to the thinking of the Pharisees, Jesus did not come to abolish the Law (Matthew 5:17). In our Gospel text, Our Lord lashes out at the hypocrisy of the Pharisees who were concerned with externals and appearances but not the Truth. For Jesus, what defiles a person, what makes one unholy is what comes from deep within the heart. It is the human heart that must be cleansed with the help of God’s Grace.

Food for your Journey

Most of the people I know who have what I want — which is to say, purpose, heart, balance, gratitude, joy — are people with a deep sense of spirituality. They are people in community who pray or practice their faith — people banding together to work on themselves and for human
rights. They follow a brighter light than the glimmer of their own candle; they are part of something beautiful.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are always speaking to my heart and calling me to conversion and new life. Shrink my over-sized ego and remove all the confusing distractions that keep me from listening to and acting upon Your desires for me. Help to become the person You desire me to be. Amen