



Daily Reflections

March 4, 2020

Scripture

Luke 11:29-32

While still more people gathered in the crowd, Jesus said to them, “This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah.

Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.

At the judgment

the queen of the south will rise with the men of this generation and she will condemn them,

because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon,

and there is something greater than Solomon here.

At the judgment the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it,

because at the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here.”

Our Scripture Reflection

The greatest sin, the first sin, is the sin of pride. The sin of pride boils down to the lust to control. Adam and Eve fell for the offer from Satan “to be like gods”, to control everything. Jesus took to task the people who sought a sign. Why? Because what He had to offer them, a sign of repentance, was not flashy or good enough. They were so prideful that they wanted Him to conform to their expectations and He refused to do so. He would not budge. He knew what they needed and that was only and exactly what He gave them. It was up to them to change.

Food for your Journey

The Conscience Fund is one of three gift funds maintained by the United States Department of the Treasury and is used for voluntary contributions from people who have stolen from or defrauded the United States Government. The fund was created in 1811 and received \$5 during its first year and more than \$5.7 million during its first 175 years. The fund's name comes from a letter sent with a \$1,500 check for previously misappropriated funds saying, "Suppose we call this a contribution to the conscience fund and get it announced in the newspapers, and perhaps we will get some more."

Donations given to the Conscience Fund vary in size and reason. A 9-cent donation was made by a person from Massachusetts who had reused a 3-cent postage stamp, while a person from Jersey City sent \$40,000 in several installments for \$8,000 he had previously taken.

Another donor sent handmade quilts in an effort to settle her tax bill. Most gifts to the Conscience Fund are from anonymous donors. Others are forwarded by clergy who have received deathbed confessions. The sincerity of some donors' repentance can be uncertain, as demonstrated by a received letter reading, "Dear Internal Revenue Service, I have not been able to sleep at night because I cheated on last year's income tax. Enclosed find a cashier's check for \$1,000. If I still can't sleep, I'll send you the balance."

—"Conscience Fund," Wikipedia.org. Retrieved March 25, 2019.

A Prayer from the Heart

God of Love, through this Lenten journey,
purify my desires to serve You. Free me from any temptations to judge others,
to place myself above others. Please let me surrender even my impatience
with others, that with Your love and Your Grace, I might be less and less absorbed with
myself, and more and more full of the desire to follow You, in laying down my life
according to Your example. Amen