



Daily Reflections

March 11, 2020

Scripture

Matthew 20:17-28

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem,
he took the Twelve disciples aside by themselves,
and said to them on the way,
“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem,
and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests
and the scribes,
and they will condemn him to death,
and hand him over to the Gentiles
to be mocked and scourged and crucified,
and he will be raised on the third day.”

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached Jesus with her sons
and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something.

He said to her, “What do you wish?”

She answered him,

“Command that these two sons of mine sit,
one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom.”

Jesus said in reply,

“You do not know what you are asking.

Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?”

They said to him, “We can.”

He replied,

“My chalice you will indeed drink,
but to sit at my right and at my left,
this is not mine to give
but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

When the ten heard this,

they became indignant at the two brothers.

But Jesus summoned them and said,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,
and the great ones make their authority over them felt.
But it shall not be so among you.
Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant;
whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.
Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Our Scripture Reflection

What an embarrassment! Mommy had to ask on behalf of her sons for places of honor at the banquet table in Heaven. Why didn't they present their selfish and arrogant request themselves? Jesus taught them that they had it all wrong. Seating in the Kingdom was the prerogative of His Heavenly Father alone. And seating there was determined not by one's self-centered sense of importance, but rather, by making oneself the least in the Kingdom. This would happen only by choosing to humble oneself in imitation of the Son Who came "to serve and not be served."

Food for your Journey

People talk about the daily grind, where one day folds into another, and there doesn't seem to be much purpose in life. The daily can get quite oppressive. I think everybody goes in and out of that state where it seems intolerable, especially since our culture encourages us to devalue it. Watch television and you'll see that the daily is the realm of the boring stuff, while the important stuff happens when we are partying or on vacation or doing something out of the ordinary. But it's a self-defeating way to look at things because the daily is where we live most of the time. We have to do the dishes. We have to do the laundry. We can either regard these things as a terrible burden, or we can cultivate a sense that the daily can be more than it seems. Sometimes it is going to seem like a grind, but we should try to be receptive to the times when something else, maybe something sacred, breaks through. ... In Orthodoxy, G.K. Chesterton said that though God makes daisies every day, he never gets tired of making them. That is God's strength -- to exult in the daily rather than to despair over it.
--Kathleen Norris, "The Dakotas, the dishes and the divine," Bearings Online, December 7, 2015.
collegevilleinstitute.org. Retrieved March 27, 2017.

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, , I hear Your invitation, "Come back to me"
and I am filled with such a longing to return to You. Show me the way to return.
Lead me this day in good works that I will do in Your Holy name
and send Your Holy Spirit to guide me and strengthen my faith.
I ask only to feel Your love in my life today.