



Daily Reflections

May 16, 2020

Scripture

John 15:18-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first.

If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own;
but because you do not belong to the world,
and I have chosen you out of the world,
the world hates you.

Remember the word I spoke to you,

‘No slave is greater than his master.’

If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

And they will do all these things to you on account of my name,
because they do not know the one who sent me.”

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus’ words were prophetic, to say the least. In 70 A.D. the Romans made the decision to eradicate the followers of “Crestos” as they called them. A savage persecution began and many disciples were brutally tortured and killed. Around 90 A.D. the decision was made by the Jewish authorities to expel the Christians from their synagogues. Abandoned, despised and persecuted, the early Christians united and in time the movement spread “To the ends of the earth”. Hatred would not/could not extinguish the flame of Faith!

Food for your Journey

Traditional accounts of the deaths of the 12 disciples:

1. John died of extreme old age exiled to the island of Patmos.
2. Judas Iscariot, after betraying his Lord, hanged himself.
3. Peter was crucified head down during the persecution of Nero.
4. Andrew died on a cross at Patrae, a Grecian colony.
5. James, the younger, son of Alphaeus, was thrown from a pinnacle of the temple, and then beaten to death with a club.
6. Bartholomew was flayed alive in Albanapolis, Armenia.
7. James, the elder son of Zebedee, was beheaded at Jerusalem.
8. Thomas, the doubter, was run through the body with a lance at Coromandel, in the East Indies.
9. Philip was hanged against a pillar at Heropolis.
10. Thaddeus was shot to death with arrows.
11. Simon died on a cross in Persia (what we now call Iran).
12. Matthew was first stoned and then beheaded.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, You suffered terribly for me and laid down Your life on the cross for me and Your people. May I never take for granted or forget the price You paid. If and when my time to suffer comes, please give me all the Grace I need to do so sacrificially and with love. Amen