



# Daily Reflections

## July 18, 2020

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### 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.

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### Our Scripture Reflection

“Anachorea” translated as “withdrew” does not connote Jesus’ fleeing cowardly because of a perceived threat from the Pharisees. In Matthew’s Gospel, we see time and time again that Jesus acts in order to fulfill what was written in Scripture, or in other words, to fulfill His Father’s

plan for Him. The Pharisees are plotting to kill Him but it's not Jesus' hour. He has work to do which includes, "to proclaim justice to the Gentiles."

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## **Food for your Journey**

When God makes a covenant with us, God says: "I will love you with an everlasting love. I will be faithful to you, even when you run away from me, reject me or betray me." In our society we don't speak much about covenants; we speak about contracts. When we make a contract with a person, we say: "I will fulfill my part as long as you fulfill yours. When you don't live up to your promises, I no longer have to live up to mine." Contracts are often broken because the partners are unwilling or unable to be faithful to their terms.

But God didn't make a contract with us; God made a covenant with us, and God wants our relationships with one another to reflect that covenant. That's why marriage, friendship, life in community are all ways to give visibility to God's faithfulness in our lives together.

--Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith* (Harper Collins, 1997).

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Precious Lord, You came into this world on a mission: to redeem us and save us. Nothing would deter You or stop You. Satan tried time and time again but he failed. Lord, as Your disciple, make me resolute. May nothing ever deter me from living Your Gospel. Amen