



Daily Reflections

July 21, 2020

Scripture

Matthew 12:46-50

While Jesus was speaking to the crowds,
his mother and his brothers appeared outside,
wishing to speak with him.

Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside,
asking to speak with you."

But he said in reply to the one who told him,
"Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?"

And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said,
"Here are my mother and my brothers.

For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father
is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Our Scripture Reflection

Please note: Jesus is not being disrespectful to His Dear Mother and Family who wish to meet with Him. He is, however, teaching them and us a most important lesson. When we commit to become His disciple, we enter a relationship that is eternal in scope. Therefore, our loyalty to Him must always transcend every other relationship including that with one's biological family.

Food for your Journey

There is virtue and goodness in loyalty to country, religion, family, race and gender. These are important identities, key parts of our self-definition, and they do demand certain loyalties, responsibilities and duties, and do too make a moral claim on our freedom. We may never take these for granted and think we don't owe anything to them.

But we too easily lose perspective, as do whole countries, cultures and religions. Too often we lose the sense that we are also citizens of other realms and each of these too makes certain demands and moral claims on us. We are not just citizens of one country, members of one religion, members of one family and members of one race and gender. We are citizens of the whole world, one with all who believe, brothers and sisters with all who are sincere, and part of the one family of humanity. And these wider loyalties constitute our deepest identity.

Jesus said as much: "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers and sisters? Those who hear and keep the word of God are mother, brother and sister to me!" In saying that, Jesus redefined both our citizenship and our loyalties. Real family, real country, real religion and real identity are not based upon blood relationship, skin colour, gender, church affiliation, or shared geography.

What makes real family, country, religion or identity is a shared spirit, the Holy Spirit ...

--Ron Rolheiser, "Multi-citizenship -- Wide loyalties," online column of April 17, 2005.

ronrolheiser.com/columnarchive/?id=115. Retrieved February 9, 2013.

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Jesus, You are my Lord and Savior! Help me to live this day in such a way that all who see me know Who is the Authority in my life. Through every word and deed may I reveal Your Lordship over my life. Amen