



Daily Reflections

September 4, 2020

Scripture

Luke 5:33-39

The scribes and Pharisees said to Jesus,
“The disciples of John the Baptist fast often and offer prayers,
and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same;
but yours eat and drink.”
Jesus answered them, “Can you make the wedding guests fast
while the bridegroom is with them?
But the days will come, and when the bridegroom is taken away from them,
then they will fast in those days.”
And he also told them a parable.
“No one tears a piece from a new cloak to patch an old one.
Otherwise, he will tear the new
and the piece from it will not match the old cloak.
Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins.
Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins,
and it will be spilled, and the skins will be ruined.
Rather, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins.
And no one who has been drinking old wine desires new,
for he says, ‘The old is good.’”

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus has called Levi to be a disciple (5:27-28) and Levi has responded by holding a banquet attended by his tax collector friends (5:29). By this time in Jesus' ministry, the Pharisees and

scribes are watching Him carefully out of envy, seeking ways to criticize Him much like presidential candidates pick at an opponent trying for an advantage in the public eye. When they object to Jesus' eating with tax collectors and sinners, Jesus responds that He had come as a doctor to heal the sin-sick; no wonder he spent time with sinners. Today's passage continues the Pharisees' criticism: "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking". The implication is that Jesus and his followers aren't as spiritual as John the Baptist and the Pharisees. Jesus corrects them using the metaphor of the wine and wineskins. John's focus on repentance and preparing the way for the one Who is "Mightier than I" is manifested in the use of the term "old wine skins". Jesus, and His work of proclaiming the Kingdom of God requires an open mind and heart that can stretch to receive and accept His Good News. This idea is symbolized by the pouring of new, still fermenting wine into new wine skins which have the ability to stretch.

Food for your Journey

Artisan bread is best described by thinking about the person who makes the bread. Artisan bakers are craftspersons who are trained to the highest ability to mix, ferment, shape and bake a handcrafted loaf of bread. They understand the science behind the chemical reactions of the ingredients and know how to provide the best environment for the bread to develop.

Compare an artisan baker to other familiar craftspersons. A baker's work parallels that of jewelers, glass blowers or furniture makers. They all have a palette of preferred, trustworthy materials. They know how to combine their materials to build something strong and at the same time delicate or elegant. Combining the raw materials in different ways will create various shapes, textures or colors. The finished product is something to be proud of when so much thought and creativity went into it.

—"Artisan bread," Artisan Bakers Web Site, Artisanbakers.com. Retrieved February 12, 2003

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Open my heart and my mind completely so that I can embrace fully Your plan for me. Mold me, melt me, fill me, use me, Lord. Amen