



Daily Reflections

December 8, 2020

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-23

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.
Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
“Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.”
All this took place to fulfill
what the Lord had said through the prophet:
Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means “God is with us.”

Our Scripture Reflection

There are three times when Joseph, while asleep, is called by God to act:

1. In today's text where he is instructed to take Mary as his wife
2. 2:13...Joseph is told to take Mary and the child and to flee into Egypt
3. 2:19...After the death of Herod, Joseph is told to take Mary and the child and return home

Please note: each time Joseph is called he acts with obedience and immediacy. He, therefore, becomes a true role model for people of Faith.

Food for your Journey

This much is certain: The greatest thing each person can do is to give himself to God utterly and unconditionally -- weakness, fears and all. For God loves obedience more than good intentions or second-best offerings, which are all too often made under the guise of weakness.

--Søren Kierkegaard, *Spiritual Writings: A New Translation and Selection* (Harper Collins, 2010).

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, I pray for the Grace to be like Joseph. Make me humble of heart as the result of my having turned my life over to You completely as he did. Make me obedient to Your every desire so that one day, when this life is complete, I may live with You in glory forever. Amen