



Daily Reflections

December 14, 2020

Scripture

Matthew 21:23-27

When Jesus had come into the temple area,
the chief priests and the elders of the people approached him
as he was teaching and said,
“By what authority are you doing these things?
And who gave you this authority?”
Jesus said to them in reply,
“I shall ask you one question, and if you answer it for me,
then I shall tell you by what authority I do these things.
Where was John’s baptism from?
Was it of heavenly or of human origin?”
They discussed this among themselves and said,
“If we say ‘Of heavenly origin,’ he will say to us,
‘Then why did you not believe him?’
But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we fear the crowd,
for they all regard John as a prophet.”
So they said to Jesus in reply, “We do not know.”
He himself said to them,
“Neither shall I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

Our Scripture Reflection

The religious leaders were filled with envy, jealousy and hatred for Jesus, so much so that they were blind to His revelation. Several times they attempt to trap Him with their obnoxious questions as we see in today’s text. They are not looking for information so that they might

learn. No, they want to entrap Him so that they can have something of which to accuse Him. They want Him dead! They will not succeed because it is not yet His time.

Food for your Journey

Mother Teresa, 1979 Nobel Peace Prize-winner, says this is how we co-create with God to bring good out of evil:

Loving as He loves,
helping as He helps,
giving as He gives,
serving as He serves,
rescuing as He rescues,
being with Him for all the twenty-four hours,
touching Him in His distressing disguise.

When Mother Teresa meets someone who is particularly obnoxious, or hateful, or mean, or disturbed, she says only that he or she is Jesus in a "distressing disguise," and on that basis she reaches out to touch them

-Quoted in Donald E. Demaray,
Laughter, Joy and Healing
(Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986), 175.

A Prayer from the Heart

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Fill my heart and this world with the holy Peace, a Peace which this world can never give. I love You my Savior! Amen