



Daily Reflections

December 25, 2020

Scripture

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
He was not the light,
but came to testify to the light.
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world,
and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.
But to those who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to those who believe in his name,
who were born not by natural generation

nor by human choice nor by a man's decision
but of God.

And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.

John testified to him and cried out, saying,
"This was he of whom I said,
'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me
because he existed before me.'"

From his fullness we have all received,
grace in place of grace,
because while the law was given through Moses,
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God.

The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side,
has revealed him.

Our Scripture Reflection

While Matthew gives us the beautiful story of the Magi who come to worship the newborn King, and Luke gives us obedient, lowly shepherds, John gives us the "bottom line" of the Christmas season. God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to save it. The Son became one like us in all things but sin. This, my Friends, is why we call ourselves Christian. May your appreciation of the magnitude of this most holy event change your life forever.

Food for your Journey

A priest in a Midwestern city wanted to help inner-city children see something more than their own situations. So he put them on a bus and took them to see some things of great beauty. Children went to the art museum and saw paintings by the masters. They went to a symphony matinee and heard beautiful music. They went for a walk through a neighborhood of homes that were done over by a creative team of architects. That young priest showed those children the best and brightest things he knew.

Then the kids climbed back on the bus and went home. That night, one of those young boys set his apartment house on fire. His neighbors and family members were rescued, but the place burned down. The priest was in tears when he visited the boy in a detention cell. "Why did you do it?" he asked.

"I saw all those beautiful things," said the boy, "and then I came home and saw how ugly my world was, and I hated the ugliness, so I wanted to burn it down."

Shine some light in a dark place and there's no telling what will happen. When all you have ever seen is darkness, that is all you know. And when light comes, it makes for a contrast. Darkness remains a choice. In fact, it is possible for light to come into the world, and for somebody to say, "Turn out the lights!" It is possible for the Light of the world to shine on people and for those people to not accept it.

—William G. Carter, *Praying for a Whole New World*. Lima, Ohio: CSS Publishing, 2000. Used by permission from CSS Publishing Co., Inc., 517 S. Main Street, Lima, Ohio, 45804.

A Prayer from the Heart

How can I possibly say "Thank You" enough, Father, for this most holy feast. Today I celebrate the gift of my Savior. The Babe in the manger will grow up to lay down His life for me, a terrible sinner. How can I possibly utter words of gratitude that are sufficient? I can't, Lord. What You desire above all is a humble, contrite heart, a heart totally dedicated to Your Son. That I offer You this day. Amen