



Daily Reflections

January 9, 2021

Scripture

Luke 3:22-30

After these things Jesus and his disciples came into the land of Judea: and there he abode with them, and baptized.

And John also was baptizing in Ennon near Salim; because there was much water there; and they came and were baptized.

For John was not yet cast into prison.

And there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews concerning purification:

And they came to John, and said to him: Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond the Jordan, to whom thou gavest testimony, behold he baptizeth, and all men come to him.

John answered, and said: A man cannot receive any thing, unless it be given him from heaven.

You yourselves do bear me witness, that I said, I am not Christ, but that I am sent before him.

He that hath the bride, is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, who standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This my joy therefore is fulfilled.

He must increase, but I must decrease.

Our Scripture Reflection

Some of the most beautiful, most powerful words of the New Testament belong to John the Baptist: "He must increase but I must decrease." Why did he say such a thing? John because of his powerful preaching had attracted a sizable following many of whom were sure that he was the messiah. But John sets them straight with his very clear, very blunt words. John has no ego problem. He is humble enough to accept and proclaim the Truth that Jesus ALONE is the long-

awaited messiah. In a world where over-inflated egos abound we need to have the humility that John possessed.

Food for your Journey

When the disciples, overeager as ever, asked Jesus who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, Jesus pulled a child out of the crowd and said the greatest in the kingdom of heaven were people like this. Two thousand years of homiletic sentimentalizing to the contrary notwithstanding, Jesus was not playing Captain Kangaroo. He was saying that the people who get into heaven are people who, like children, don't worry about it too much. They are people who, like children, live with their hands open more than their fists clenched. They are people who, like children, are so relatively unburdened by preconceptions that if someone says there's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, they are perfectly willing to go take a look for themselves. Children aren't necessarily better than other people. Like the child in "The Emperor's New Clothes," they are just apt to be better at telling the difference between a put-up job and the real thing.

-- Frederick Buechner,

Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC

(San Francisco: Harper-Collins, 1993), 15-16.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are meek and humble of heart. Help me to follow the example of John the Baptist and all of the great saints throughout history who humbled themselves in order to honor You as their Lord. Amen