



Daily Reflections

January 16, 2017

Scripture

Mark 2:18-22

The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were accustomed to fast.

People came to Jesus and objected,

"Why do the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"

Jesus answered them,

"Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?

As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast.

But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak.

If he does, its fullness pulls away,

the new from the old, and the tear gets worse.

Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins.

Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins,

and both the wine and the skins are ruined.

Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins."

Our Scripture Reflection

The very small minded and unfriendly people have no idea what they are asking Jesus with regard to fasting. It was the time for feasting. Why? Because the Savior of the world was right there in their midst. They were clueless because their hearts were small. They failed to appreciate the moment. Today, Jesus is with us in His Word and in His sacraments but do we appreciate that? Do we strive to listen to and for His every Word? What a gift we have in our midst!

Food for your Journey

We cannot always or even often control events, but we can control how we respond to them. When things happen which dismay or appall, we ought to look to God for his meaning, remembering that he is not taken by surprise nor can his purposes be thwarted in the end. What God looks for is those who will worship him. Our look of inquiring trust glorifies him.

This is our first responsibility: to glorify God. In the face of life's worst reversals and tragedies, the response of a faithful Christian is praise--not for the wrong itself certainly, but for who God is and for the ultimate assurance that there is a pattern being worked out for those who love Him.

--Elisabeth Elliot, *A Lamp for My Feet* (Mich: Vine Books, 1985), 96.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are my Lord! Help me to never take Your Presence for granted. May I strive to know You and love You more each day. Amen.