



# Daily Reflections

**January 2, 2016**

---

## Scripture

### **John 1:19-28**

This is the testimony of John.

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?"

He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted,

"I am not the Christ."

So they asked him,

"What are you then? Are you Elijah?"

And he said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

So they said to him,

"Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us?"

What do you have to say for yourself?"

He said:

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'  
as Isaiah the prophet said."  
Some Pharisees were also sent.  
They asked him,  
"Why then do you baptize  
if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"  
John answered them,  
"I baptize with water;  
but there is one among you whom you do not recognize,  
the one who is coming after me,  
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."  
This happened in Bethany across the Jordan,  
where John was baptizing.

---

## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Oh how easy it would have been for John when questioned about his identity to say, "I am the great one, the messiah, don't you see the crowds I attract?" But no, John would never do such a thing. He was The Messenger, The One who came to prepare for the One who was to come. Even with such a strong will and attitude, John is a humble servant of the Lord. Our world could learn a lot of John.

---

## **Food for your Journey**

How far do you go in satirizing the commercialization of Christmas? Artist Tom Sachs went too far when he created a nativity scene at Barney's New York clothing store last year--for which they apologized in full-page ads.

It seems that the crèche was set in a McDonald's restaurant, with the three wise men Bart Simpson dolls. Mary was leather-clad, pop singer Madonna in a bondage suit, and Jesus was a "Hello Kitty" Japanese character.

By the way, Barney's has since closed its doors.

--As reported in National and International Religion Report 9 (26 December 1994), 7.

---

## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, As I enter this new year, I beg for the Grace of humility. Please remove my self-righteousness and false pride. Help me, Lord, to imitate You. Amen.