

Daily Reflections

The Divine Intervention

September 28, 2015

Scripture

Luke 9:46-50

An argument arose among the disciples about which of them was the greatest.

Jesus realized the intention of their hearts and took a child and placed it by his side and said to them,

“Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.

For the one who is least among all of you is the one who is the greatest.”

Then John said in reply,

“Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to prevent him

because he does not follow in our company.”

Jesus said to him,

“Do not prevent him, for whoever is not against you is for you.”

Our Scripture Reflection

After hearing the Master predict His horrific passion for the second time, the disciples reveal their non-understanding of His message in a petty little debate over greatness. Using

the example of a little child, one considered least in society, Jesus attempts to convert their thinking. Was He successful? Not just yet. In the very next scene, John, with an air of arrogance and superiority, questions Jesus about those who are doing miraculous works while using the name of Jesus but who, however, are not part of the "chosen" group. Jesus, once again, corrects the disciple's thinking by reminding them that anyone who does good, insider or outsider, is doing the work of Jesus.

Food for your Journey

Lately, I have tried the following experiment.

Whenever I am repulsed by a homeless bum who loiters near our home, or nurse a grudge against a friend who spurned me or envy someone more successful than I am, I try to picture that person as a little baby or child.

I then find it far easier to welcome or receive them only as a precious human being, rather than someone who can help or harm me, as someone I might ignore, fear or flatter. The simple act of welcoming another person in that way, Jesus says, is to welcome him, and, in turn, to welcome God the Father who sent him.

Similarly, to become or imitate children, as Jesus commands, is to understand our own selves in the same manner, not as people whose significance rests in titles, honors, successes or failures, as if those might gain or deny us favor with God and man, but in the knowledge that we are human beings loved by God. That, says Jesus, is the only way to experience the presence of his kingdom.

--Daniel Clendenin, Journey with Jesus for September 24, 2006.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, cleanse me of my arrogance, false pride and self-concern and make me meek and humble of heart. Amen.