



Daily Reflections

August 20, 2016

Scripture

Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying,
“The scribes and the Pharisees
have taken their seat on the chair of Moses.
Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you,
but do not follow their example.
For they preach but they do not practice.
They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry
and lay them on people’s shoulders,
but they will not lift a finger to move them.
All their works are performed to be seen.
They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels.
They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues,
greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation ‘Rabbi.’
As for you, do not be called ‘Rabbi.’
You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers.

Call no one on earth your father;
you have but one Father in heaven.
Do not be called 'Master';
you have but one master, the Christ.
The greatest among you must be your servant.
Whoever exalts himself will be humbled;
but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Our Scripture Reflection

In our Gospel text, Jesus exposes the hypocrisy of the religious leaders and teachers. They are all show but zero substance. He offers words that must be taken seriously: "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." May we, too, heed His words.

Food for your Journey

In The Book of Virtues: A Treasury of Great Moral Stories, William J. Bennett prefaces an anonymous poem titled "The Question" with this short comment, "Seek honesty in yourself before you seek it in your neighbors." Thoughtful readers will recall that Bennett might well have taken his own advice. Still, the poem reads:

Were the whole world good as you — not an atom better —
Were it just as pure and true,
Just as pure and true as you;
Just as strong in faith and works;
Just as free of crafty quirks;
All extortion, all deceit;
Schemes its neighbors to defeat;
Schemes its neighbors to defraud;
Schemes some culprit to applaud —
Would this world be better?

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are the model of humility. Help me, Lord, to live my life humbly by surrendering it completely to You and Your way. Amen.