

Daily *Reflections*

The Divine Intervention

August 22, 2015

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

Jesus goes after the religious leaders of His and of our day as well. Why? "They preach but do not practice." He will call them repeatedly "hypocrites" which comes from a Greek word meaning, "stage actor." Bottom line for all of us: If you dare profess to be a follower of Christ, then act like it. You will be judged accordingly!

Food for your Journey

The pericope is ... about humility. The newest vocabulary word, "selfie," really works from a humility angle. It seems to me that the Pharisees spent more time taking selfies than being attentive to people's needs.

--Rev. Leland Pratt, Columbus, Ohio.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Sweet Jesus, meek and humble of heart. Make my heart like Your heart. Amen.

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