



Daily Reflections

August 21, 2016

Scripture

Luke 13:22-30

Jesus passed through towns and villages,
teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem.

Someone asked him,

"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"

He answered them,

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,
for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter
but will not be strong enough.

After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door,
then will you stand outside knocking and saying,

'Lord, open the door for us.'

He will say to you in reply,

'I do not know where you are from.

And you will say,

'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.'

Then he will say to you,
'I do not know where you are from.
Depart from me, all you evildoers!'
And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth
when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
and all the prophets in the kingdom of God
and you yourselves cast out.
And people will come from the east and the west
and from the north and the south
and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.
For behold, some are last who will be first,
and some are first who will be last."

Our Scripture Reflection

On the road to Jerusalem, someone in the crowd asks Jesus, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" While Jesus taught that it is His Father's desire that all people might be saved, the reason He sent His only Son in the first place, was to extend an invitation, an offer, to His Heavenly Kingdom. How we respond is another issue. Jesus teaches that all of us must reckon with a contest - like challenge to enter. Or in other words, we have work to do. We cannot earn our way there. However, all who say they believe are expected to produce good fruit with the time and talent we have been graciously given. The invitation was extended with wide opened arms on Calvary. How are you responding?

Food for your Journey

Many years ago, an editorial in the magazine, *War Cry* put it like this: "A loose wire gives out no musical note; but fasten the ends, and the piano, the harp or the violin is born. Free steam drives no machine. But hamper and confine it with piston and turbine and you have the great world of machinery made possible. The unhampered river drives no dynamos, but dam it up and we get power sufficient to light a great city. So our lives must be disciplined if we are to be of any real service in this world." If you are going to walk with Jesus, there are some things you will need to leave behind.

Three surprises in heaven: Bishop Sheen tells us that we will have three surprises in heaven. The first surprise: We will be surprised to see that many people we expected to be in Heaven are not there. St. John of the Cross gives the reason why they are not there:

“At the evening of our life, we shall be judged on how we have loved.” The second surprise: We will be surprised to see that the people we never expected to be in Heaven are there. It is because God judges man’s intentions and rewards them accordingly. The third surprise: We will be surprised to see that we are in Heaven. Since our getting to Heaven is principally God’s work we should be surprised that God somehow “went out of His way” to save us simply because we showed the good will and generosity to cooperate with His grace. In today’s gospel, Jesus answers the question who will be saved, when and how.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You suffered the most agonizing death on the Cross for the sake of my salvation. Help me to show my gratitude by giving completely of myself to You. Amen.