



Daily Reflections

January 22, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,
the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light,
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death
light has arisen.

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers,

Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew,
casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.
He said to them,
"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."
At once they left their nets and followed him.
He walked along from there and saw two other brothers,
James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets.
He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father
and followed him.
He went around all of Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom,
and curing every disease and illness among the people.

Our Scripture Reflection

Our Lord left His hometown, a small Jewish village and place of safety, in order to risk going to Gentile, that is, pagan territory. Why?? Because that is what His Father had told Him to do. Those Gentiles of Zebulun and Naphtali needed a light and He was just the one to give it! So many in our society have gone pagan. Almost all of the millennial generation has. But is that it? Do we leave them there? You, me, we, are called to be Lumen Christi, Light of Christ, but are we? Does your belief in and love for Jesus shine through the darkness of our world? If not, why not?

Food for your Journey

The Spanish author Miguel de Unamuno tells of an ancient Roman aqueduct, located near the city of Segovia. The aqueduct — a sort of elevated trestle over which water flows — was constructed in the year A.D. 109. For 1,800 years, the aqueduct carried cool water from the mountains to the hot and thirsty city. As many as 60 generations depended on this marvel of engineering for their drinking water.

Then came another generation, in more recent years, who said to each other, "This aqueduct is an architectural marvel. It's a historical treasure that ought to be preserved. We should give it a well-earned rest."

That's exactly what they did. They detoured the water flow away from the ancient stones and channeled it through modern pipes. They put up historical markers so tourists would know who had constructed the aqueduct, and for what purpose. They celebrated the fact that their city's water system was now modern in every way.

But then, a strange thing began to happen. The Roman aqueduct began to fall apart. The sun beating down on its dry mortar, without the constant flow of water to cool it, caused it to crumble. In time, the massive structural stones threatened to fall. What 18 centuries of hard service had not been able to destroy, a few years of idleness nearly did.

Not everyone today lives for wealth and power and fame. After Jack McConnell, 81, a physician and medical researcher, retired to play golf in Hilton Head, South Carolina, he found that he was bored. He also found that many of his new neighbors lacked adequate healthcare. So he started a free clinic for them, and got other retired doctors and nurses to help.

Now the Volunteers in Medicine Institute, using his model, has established a network of more than 50 neighborhood clinics around the country. McConnell credits his parents for helping him be concerned about the needs of others. "They asked us, at the end of each day, what we had done for someone else that day."

— AARP Bulletin, February 2007.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are the Light of the world! In the midst of my weaknesses and imperfections, use me to reflect Your Light in this world that is filled with so much sadness and pain. Amen.