



Daily Reflections

November 13, 2016

Scripture

Luke 21: 5-19

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here-- the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Then they asked him,

"Teacher, when will this happen?"

And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?"

He answered,

"See that you not be deceived,

for many will come in my name, saying,

'I am he,' and 'The time has come.'

Do not follow them!

When you hear of wars and insurrections,

do not be terrified; for such things must happen first,

but it will not immediately be the end.”

Then he said to them,

“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues
from place to place;

and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.

“Before all this happens, however,

they will seize and persecute you,

they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons,

and they will have you led before kings and governors

because of my name.

It will lead to your giving testimony.

Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand,

for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking

that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.

You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends,
and they will put some of you to death.

You will be hated by all because of my name,

but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.

By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”

Our Scripture Reflection

In today's Gospel text, Jesus' instructs the people concerning their questions about the end of time. His bottom line?

1. The end of time will come. When? Only God knows. Human forecasts and predictions are not to be believed.

2. Rather than live in fear about the end, the true disciple is called to let their light shine about their Lord's return at the end of time.

3. Perseverance is a virtue to be lived in the good times and the times of trial.

Food for your Journey

In ancient China, the people wanted security against the barbaric hordes to the north, so they built the Great Wall. It was so high they believed no one

could climb over it and so thought nothing could break it down. They settled back to enjoy their security. During the first hundred years of the wall's existence, China was invaded three times. Not once did the barbaric hordes break down the wall or climb over it. Each time, they bribed a gatekeeper and then marched right through the gates. The Chinese were so busy relying on walls of stone they forgot to teach integrity to their children.

-Source unknown.

Signs that point to life:

Several years ago, a schoolteacher, who served on special assignment with children confined in a large city hospital, received a routine call requesting that she visit a particular child who had been admitted and would require a long stay. She took the boy's name and room number (409) and was told by the boy's regular teacher, "We're studying nouns and adverbs now. This boy needs help so he will not fall behind."

It wasn't until the visiting teacher reached the boy's room that she realized it was located in the hospital's burn unit. No one had prepared her to confront a boy who had been horribly burned over much of his body and who was in great pain. She wanted to turn on her heel and walk out, but she stammered, "I'm the hospital teacher, and your regular teacher asked me to help you with nouns and adverbs."

Because of his condition, the boy could barely respond. The teacher stumbled through the grammar lesson, but felt guilty for asking the boy questions or trying to correct him.

The next morning, however, this teacher ran into a nurse on the burn unit who asked her, "What did you do to that boy in 409 yesterday? The teacher started to apologize, but the nurse interrupted: "You don't understand. We've been concerned about him. But ever since you were with him yesterday, his whole attitude has changed. He's fighting back, responding to treatment, like he wants to live."

The boy himself later explained with tears rimming his eyes, "I had given up. At the lowest moment, the teacher came into my room. I suddenly realized that they wouldn't send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with

a dying boy, would they? I decided I wanted to get well, if they thought I could. So I prayed, asking God to help me want to live. And here I am."

The signs all around us may point to death and destruction, but God wants us to keep working on our nouns and adverbs. There's a lot of life yet to live, and work to be done.

-With thanks to Wesley Taylor, Tigard, Oregon.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You created me with a purpose: To love You and serve You in this life so that I may enjoy eternal life with You forever in Heaven one day. Keep my faith strong, especially during times of adversity. May I witness to all about My joy in serving You. Amen.