



Daily Reflections

November 20, 2016

Scripture

Luke 23:35-43

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said,
“He saved others, let him save himself
if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God.”

Even the soldiers jeered at him.

As they approached to offer him wine they called out,
“If you are King of the Jews, save yourself.”

Above him there was an inscription that read,
“This is the King of the Jews.”

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,
“Are you not the Christ?

Save yourself and us.”

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,

“Have you no fear of God,

for you are subject to the same condemnation?

And indeed, we have been condemned justly,

for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,
but this man has done nothing criminal."
Then he said,
"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
He replied to him,
"Amen, I say to you,
today you will be with me in Paradise."

Our Scripture Reflection

This weekend we bring the Church calendar year to a close with the Feast of Christ the King. Unlike the royalty of the secular world who are crowned based on lineage, Jesus' Kingship comes about by virtue of His complete self-giving on the cross. Perhaps the most touching part of today's Gospel text is to be found in the dialogue between Our Lord and the "good criminal." While accepting his guilt and earthly punishment, he humbly petitions Our Lord for a share in His Heavenly Kingdom. His request is granted in the most touching of words, "Today, you will be with me in Paradise." He was at that moment given the gift of eternal life.

Food for your Journey

"Patience" and "passion" both come from a Latin word meaning to suffer or endure. When we speak of the Passion of Christ, we are recalling the suffering he endured on the cross. But it is good to realize that whenever we practice patience -- cheerfully bearing with somebody who is irascible, or enduring discomfort rather than imposing it on others -- in a small way, we are embracing the principle of the Passion. Each of us can bear a little of such self-denial, and, with practice, our shoulders can grow broad enough to carry some of the burden of those we love. In this way, the mystics tell us, by practicing mercy throughout our lives, we take upon ourselves some of Jesus' burden of pain.

--Sri Eknath Easwaran, *Original Goodness: Eknath Easwaran on the Beatitudes* (Nilgiri Press, 1996), 196.

Beckah Fink from Texas wrote to Dear Abby about a father's forgiveness and a son's need to forgive himself. "A young man from a wealthy family was about to graduate from high school. It was the custom in that affluent neighborhood for the parents to give the graduate an automobile. 'Bill' and his father had spent months looking at cars, and the week before graduation they found the perfect car. Bill was certain that the car would be his on graduation night.

"Imagine his disappointment when, on the eve of his graduation, Bill's father handed him a gift-wrapped Bible! Bill was so angry, he threw the Bible down and stormed out of the house. He and his father never saw each other again. It was the news of his father's death that brought Bill home again.

"As he sat one night, going through his father's possessions that he was to inherit, he came across the Bible his father had given him. He brushed away the dust and opened it to find a cashier's check, dated the day of his graduation - in the exact amount of the car they had chosen together."

--"Dear Abby," *Rocky Mountain News*, 2 September 1992, 55.

"I lift mine eyes, and see
Thee, tender Lord, in pain upon the tree
Athirst for my sake and athirst for me."
--Christina Rosse

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, My Lord and King, I thank You this day for the tremendous love You showed me by Your death on the cross. Lord, though I am not worthy of such a gift, You give it to me anyway. May I become truly humble and show my gratitude by living my life in imitation of You. Amen.