



Daily Reflections

February 16, 2017

Scripture

Mark 8:27-33

Jesus and his disciples set out
for the villages of Caesarea Philippi.
Along the way he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that I am?"
They said in reply,
"John the Baptist, others Elijah,
still others one of the prophets."
And he asked them,
"But who do you say that I am?"
Peter said to him in reply,
"You are the Christ."
Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.
He began to teach them
that the Son of Man must suffer greatly

and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed, and rise after three days.

He spoke this openly.

Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples,

rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan.

You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Our Scripture Reflection

Where did Peter go so wrong that The Lord would rebuke him? On one hand, he did not want to even think that Jesus would suffer and not necessarily because of his admiration for Jesus. Peter had the idea that the Messiah was to be a strong, victorious leader. Weakness, suffering, death just didn't factor in to this image. Peter would not be alone in his thinking. That Jesus had to suffer a humiliating death and die has been a stumbling block for people throughout history. But God would have it no other way. He was serious about winning our hearts back from sin and He showed how serious He was by giving His only Son.

Food for your Journey

Henry Ward Beecher was one of the great preachers of the nineteenth century. Beecher was one of those disciples of Christ who could respond in love and compassion to those who attacked and disturbed him. So much so, in fact, that throughout his Brooklyn parish it was said that, "If you want a favor from Beecher, kick him."

A Prayer from the Heart:

Precious Lord, You gave everything so that I could have the promise of eternal life in Heaven one day. May I spend my life doing good so that I can show my gratitude for You. Amen.