



# Daily Reflections

**July 21, 2016**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 13:10-17**

The disciples approached Jesus and said,  
“Why do you speak to the crowd in parables?”  
He said to them in reply,  
“Because knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven  
has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted.  
To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich;  
from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away.  
This is why I speak to them in parables, because  
they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.  
Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says:  
You shall indeed hear but not understand,  
you shall indeed look but never see.  
Gross is the heart of this people,  
they will hardly hear with their ears,  
they have closed their eyes,  
lest they see with their eyes

and hear with their ears  
and understand with their hearts and be converted  
and I heal them.

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see,  
and your ears, because they hear.

Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people  
longed to see what you see but did not see it,  
and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

The human heart, Jesus tells us, can be stubborn and hard. Because of a lack of humility, we try to do it all our way. The result? While some may seem to be successful in earthly terms, all who live apart from God lack peace.

The saints throughout history witness to one most important truth: Surrender is the only way.

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## **Food for your Journey**

Professor Deborah Kapp marvels that people choose to farm -- it's hard work, seven days a week, and lots of farmers struggle to survive. "Nevertheless, year after year, people plant, grow and harvest crops," she writes in *Feasting on the Gospels: Matthew, Volume 1*. "Discipleship is a wonderful adventure that invites us to share God's word as a farmer plants her crops: with a clear vision of the world's fickleness, a willingness to fail, hope, resilience, and the deep trust that by God's grace at least some of our work will bear fruit."

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, meek and humble of heart, please make my heart like Your heart. Amen.

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