



Daily Reflections

August 16, 2016

Scripture

Matthew 19:23-30

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of heaven.

Again I say to you,

it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God.”

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, “Who then can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and said,

“For men this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

Then Peter said to him in reply,

“We have given up everything and followed you.

What will there be for us?”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you

that you who have followed me, in the new age,
when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory,
will yourselves sit on twelve thrones,
judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters
or father or mother or children or lands
for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more,
and will inherit eternal life.
But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Our Scripture Reflection

Please note: Jesus never condemns those who are wealthy. Jesus, however, points out how intoxicating power and possessions can be. It all boils down to the attitude of the heart towards what one owns. Do we possess our possessions or are we possessed by our possessions? The true disciple uses what he has for the sake of Jesus and His Kingdom.

Food for your Journey

The man with the greatest voice in popular music gave up his fame (and his women, and his cocaine) to serve the Lord 23 years ago. He spends most of his time preaching in a Memphis church. Will he ever make another great soul record?

God only knows.

In spite of the magnitude of his success, Al Green chose to walk away from secular music - and, in fact, secular life - before the 70s had ended. Every now and then, he surfaces in his old guise - a duet with Lyle Lovett here, a bit on Ally McBeal there - but for the most part, Green's life since his religious awakening has been one of renunciation. As Green explains to me one day, talking about his born-again experience, "God said to me, 'I want you to be priceless. The love of God cannot be bought.' God told me I could have more clothes than I could ever possibly wear, and more food than I could ever eat, and more cars than I could ever drive, and all that money. And then he said to me, 'I kept my side of the bargain - what about you?'"

Now Al Green is keeping his side of the bargain - with a gesture toward God every bit as large as his talent.

-Scott Spencer, "Al Green's gotta serve somebody," *Rolling Stone*, September 28, 2000, 32-34.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You gave everything for my eternal life. In gratitude, Lord, I offer my life in witness and service to You this day. Amen.