



Daily Reflections

February 7, 2017

Scripture

Mark 7: 7-13

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.

(For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders.

And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves.

And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds.)

So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?"

He responded,
"Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites,
as it is written:
This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines human precepts.
You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition."
He went on to say,
"How well you have set aside the commandment of God
in order to uphold your tradition!
For Moses said,
Honor your father and your mother,
and Whoever curses father or mother shall die.
Yet you say,
'If someone says to father or mother,
"Any support you might have had from me is qorban"
(meaning, dedicated to God),
you allow him to do nothing more for his father or mother.
You nullify the word of God
in favor of your tradition that you have handed on.
And you do many such things."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus really let the Pharisees have it, "This people honors me with their lips but their hearts are far from me." The Pharisees are like actors on the stage of life. Jesus calls them hypocrites over and over again, not to insult them but to motivate them to change. True disciples, REAL disciples let their actions match their words.

Food for your Journey

Minutes before the big fight, Apollo Creed sits at the end of his training table, staring fixedly into space, pounding a taped fist into the palm of his other hand. He is absolutely focused inward. For Creed, his Will is his Absolute.

Cut to: Rocky Balboa in the men's room, kneeling, a sink for an altar, head bowed, hands clasped, praying. Rocky knows that doing everything you can is not necessarily enough. Humility before the Eternal Ringside Judge is always wise. And remember: The bell can't save you.

—Anthony Sacramone, "Everything I know I learned from watching Rocky," Beliefnet.com.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Cleanse my heart and mind of all that is unholy and impure. With the help of Your Grace, may I live what I profess. Amen.