



Daily Reflections

May 10, 2016

Scripture

Acts 20: 20-27

From Miletus Paul had the presbyters of the Church at Ephesus summoned. When they came to him, he addressed them, "You know how I lived among you the whole time from the day I first came to the province of Asia. I served the Lord with all humility and with the tears and trials that came to me because of the plots of the Jews, and I did not at all shrink from telling you what was for your benefit, or from teaching you in public or in your homes. I earnestly bore witness for both Jews and Greeks to repentance before God and to faith in our Lord Jesus. But now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem. What will happen to me there I do not know,

except that in one city after another
the Holy Spirit has been warning me
that imprisonment and hardships await me.
Yet I consider life of no importance to me,
if only I may finish my course
and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus,
to bear witness to the Gospel of God's grace.
"But now I know that none of you
to whom I preached the kingdom during my travels
will ever see my face again.
And so I solemnly declare to you this day
that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you,
for I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the entire plan of God."

Our Scripture Reflection

To think that a murderer of Christians would become their greatest missionary is just amazing. As we see so often in Acts, nothing happens by chance; everything is under the direction of the Holy Spirit including the life of Paul. Paul is obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit even if it will mean hardship and death.

Food for your Journey

I thought that to be the light of the world, to let your light so shine before men, you have to be whole, be strong, be perfect. That special class of people I'll never belong to.

But perhaps this is when we best listen to the words of the prophet Leonard Cohen: "Ring the bells that still can ring, forget your perfect offering. There's a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." In other words, it is exactly our points of weakness, of pain, of brokenness, of insufficiency that force us, like those who originally followed Jesus, to stand in the need of God. To stand in the need of the true light.

So perhaps those cracks, made from bad choices, from anxiety and depression, from addiction, from struggle and remorse ... are what lets the light of God's love in.

And maybe those same cracks are also how the light gets out.

--Nadia Bolz Weber, "Sermon on that special class of salty, light-bearing people to whom Jesus preaches," www.patheos.com.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please use me as Your witness as You used St. Paul, the former murderer. Like St. Paul, may I proclaim Your love to all the world. Amen.
