



Daily Reflections

September 27, 2016

Scripture

Job 3:1-23

Job opened his mouth and cursed his day.

Job spoke out and said:

Perish the day on which I was born,
the night when they said, "The child is a boy!"

Why did I not perish at birth,
come forth from the womb and expire?

Or why was I not buried away like an untimely birth,
like babes that have never seen the light?

Wherefore did the knees receive me?

or why did I suck at the breasts?

For then I should have lain down and been tranquil;

had I slept, I should then have been at rest

With kings and counselors of the earth

who built where now there are ruins

Or with princes who had gold

and filled their houses with silver.
There the wicked cease from troubling,
there the weary are at rest.
Why is light given to the toilers,
and life to the bitter in spirit?
They wait for death and it comes not;
they search for it rather than for hidden treasures,
Rejoice in it exultingly,
and are glad when they reach the grave:
Those whose path is hidden from them,
and whom God has hemmed in!

Our Scripture Reflection

Job never curses God. He does, however, curse the day he was born. Surrounded by so called "friends" who in their ignorance try to get Job to curse God for his misfortune, Job will not do it. Job suffers alone. No one consoles him. No one should ever have to endure loneliness in the midst of suffering. A lesson for us all. As Sirach says so well, "A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure." (Sirach 6: 14-16)

Food for your Journey

At the heart of biblical faith, we do not find a syllogism, an airtight argument sealed with a therefore -- all's right with the world, therefore, let us have faith; therefore, let us praise God. At the heart of biblical faith, we find a non sequitur, something that does not follow at all, sealed with a nevertheless. Much is wrong with the world, the mystery of evil is great. Nevertheless, let us have faith; nevertheless, let us praise God.

--Albert Curry Winn, *A Christian Primer: The Prayer, the Creed, the Commandments* (Westminster John Knox, 1990), 79-80.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Suffering is a part of the mystery of life. Keep me safe, Oh Lord, and help me to be a true friend to those who are suffering. Amen.