

Daily Reflections

ADVENT

The Divine Intervention

December 7, 2016

Scripture

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said to the crowds:

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

Our Scripture Reflection

The people in Jesus's day only wanted to get to Heaven. Life was harsh and hard. The thought of joy and peace in Paradise was a dream. However, the scribes and Pharisees said it was only barely possible if they obeyed all of the 613 written commandments plus hundreds of other oral teachings that had been passed on from scribe to scribe. The people felt totally shut out from even the possibility of Heaven as the result. That is, until Jesus came along. He did not get rid of the commandments, He simply prioritized them into one: Love God, neighbor and self. And, He illustrated what they were

and offered all of the Grace necessary to live them. This Advent while you ponder your gift giving, remember that Jesus gives the gift that keeps on giving: Himself.

Food for your Journey

What makes loneliness an anguish is not that I have no one to share my burden, but this: I have only my burden to bear.

—Dag Hammarskjöld, with thanks to Donald P. Lee for passing it on.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, As I look into the manger scene and ponder Your sweet little infant face, may I realize that the baby grew up and gave His life for me. May this coming Christmas be my most grateful Christmas yet. Amen.