

Daily Reflections

The Divine Intervention

November 25, 2015

Scripture

Luke 21:12-19

Jesus said to the crowd:

“They will seize and persecute you,
they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons,
and they will have you led before kings and governors
because of my name.

It will lead to your giving testimony.

Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand,
for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking
that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.

You will even be handed over by parents,
brothers, relatives, and friends,
and they will put some of you to death.

You will be hated by all because of my name,
but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.

By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus never promised that following Him would be easy or pain free. He did say numerous times that we are to "pick up our cross" and follow Him. In today's Gospel text,

He prophecies about the fate of the early Church after His death and Resurrection. Times did get difficult. Many disciples laid down their lives for Jesus. Jesus teaches, however, that perseverance is the necessary virtue to get them through it all. When we read The Acts, we find proof that it did.

Food for your Journey

The Church is undergoing horrific persecution in many areas of the world and we are seeing rejection of Christians in our own county. Who would have ever expected such a thing in the "Land of the free and Home of the brave"?? The recently deceased Cardinal Archbishop of Chicago, Francis George, said the following in an interview some time ago:

"Speaking a few years ago to a group of priests, entirely outside of the current political debate, I was trying to express in overly dramatic fashion what the complete secularization of our society could bring," writes the Cardinal. "I was responding to a question and I never wrote down what I said, but the words were captured on somebody's smart phone and have now gone viral on Wikipedia and elsewhere in the electronic communications world. I am (correctly) quoted as saying that I expected to die in bed, my successor will die in prison and his successor will die a martyr in the public square. What is omitted from the reports is a final phrase I added about the bishop who follows a possibly martyred bishop: 'His successor will pick up the shards of a ruined society and slowly help rebuild civilization, as the church has done so often in human history.' What I said is not 'prophetic' but a way to force people to think outside of the usual categories that limit and sometimes poison both private and public discourse." - The NC Register

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, strengthen my faith in and love for You. Through my words and action, may I reveal to our world Your wonderful Presence. Amen.