

October 23, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

FOLLOWING CHRIST

By Alicia M. Rodriguez

Today's Gospel

*As Jesus and his disciples were proceeding on their journey
someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."
Jesus answered him,
"Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests,
but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head."
And to another he said, "Follow me."
But he replied, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father."
But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead.
But you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God."
And another said, "I will follow you, Lord,
but first let me say farewell to my family at home."
He said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow
and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God."*

LUKE 9:57-62

Reflection

As I was reading today's gospel, the poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost came into my mind. I thought about the last stanza in the poem that reads:

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

In the gospel the disciples say that they will follow Jesus, but only after they finish doing this or that. Jesus responds to them saying, "*Let the dead bury the dead,*" and "*No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God.*" It is a reminder that while I am meant to follow Jesus, it is not an easy task. Jesus is God, and God is love; and choosing to do all for love of others is, in our society, often the road less traveled.

We are living in a time where society prioritizes love of self as more important than love of our neighbors. While I agree that it is important to love ourselves, I also believe that it is equally important to show love to others -- especially to those who are unable to do so because they can't see beyond loving themselves.

We are called to be the image of Christ for one another. Christ was surrounded by the love of the disciples, but He was also surrounded by persecutors. Jesus' ministry was not easy nor was it accepted everywhere he went ... and yet He continued to show love to all.

I can't imagine the look on the disciples' faces when He told them that they couldn't say farewell to their loved ones or bury their dead before following Him. It reminds me that even Jesus was not exempt from not being able to bury the dead. Jesus knows the pain of not being able to say goodbye, and we see it when He finds out about the death of Lazarus, whom Jesus loved very dearly.

Jesus knows that choosing the road less traveled is a difficult thing to ask of us but, as Robert Frost says, "it has made all the difference"; so too does choosing to be love for others make all the difference for our world -- and for the kingdom of God.



Bird's Eye View of Road in Countryside

Photo by Alex Moliski

For Pondering

- How am I following Christ and being a reflection of His love to others? Is there anything holding me back from reflecting His love to others?
- Am I willing to travel the road less traveled?

For Prayer

Act of Petition

*Give me yourself, O my God, give yourself to me.
Behold I love you, and if my love is too weak a thing,
grant me to love you more strongly.*

*I cannot measure my love to know how much it falls short of being sufficient,
but let my soul hasten to your embrace and never be turned away
until it is hidden in the secret shelter of your presence.*

*This only do I know, that it is not good for me when you are not with me,
when you are only outside me.*

I want you in my very self.

All the plenty in the world which is not my God is utter want.

Amen.

Meet the Authors

**Join us Sunday morning, October 27,
for a fun gathering with the writers of our Daily Reflections!**

Learn how each writer decides on the format and content of their reflections, how writing reflections impacts their own spiritual lives, and how YOU can create reflections for yourself and the people you care about. A light brunch buffet will be served.

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