

Daily Reflection on Scripture
Week of September 17
When Faith Meets Life Week 3:
Politics



Sunday September 17

Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Sacred Pause Our politics should always follow our faith in God, not the other way around. Jesus leads us to stand with and support those on the margins of society.

Monday September 18

Matthew 7:1-2 "Don't judge, so that you won't be judged. You'll receive the same judgment you give. Whatever you deal out will be dealt out to you."

Sacred Pause – It is easy to judge those who oppose your points of view. Jesus says in doing so you set yourself up to be judged. Are you better than the ones you judge?

Tuesday September 19

Romans 12:2 Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

Sacred Pause – It is easy to be swayed politically by the news. It's harder to prayerfully discern what God's will might be. Often times the harder way is the best way.

Wednesday September 20

Ephesians 4:29-32 Don't let any foul words come out of your mouth. Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community so that it benefits those who hear what you say. Don't make the Holy Spirit of God unhappy—you were sealed by him for the day of redemption. Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil. Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.

Sacred Pause – When someone posts a fiery message about a political issue we want to fight back. Instead think the Golden Rule. For when have hurtful words ever been helpful?

Thursday September 21

Romans 12:15-17 Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.

Sacred Pause – Consider everyone as equal; don't think that you're better than anyone else. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect.

Friday September 22

1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 13 If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I'm a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don't have love, I'm nothing. If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever. Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.... Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

Sacred Pause - Faith, hope and love are not typically seen as political words. Yet faith, hope and love have great political ramifications. Jesus is our primary example.

Saturday September 23

Matthew 5:3-10 "Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad. Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth. Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full. Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy. Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God. Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children. Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs."

Sacred pause – Jesus was no politician. Yet many of the things he did had political impact. He stood with those that others tried to ignore but he wouldn't let them.