

Reflection Thursday Week 12 – 2020

Recently, in preparation for an art history lesson that I was privileged to attend (by Zoom), I read a comment from another art historian. She told her students to choose a painting they liked and then spend at least 3 hours in front of it or until it spoke to them. Translating this, it would seem that we should place ourselves in front of a passage of scripture until it speaks to us. I have to confess that I do not do that although I spend at least 3 hours in preparing and writing a reflection on scripture. Note that the teacher did not tell the students to learn all about the painting or offer advice in what to look for, but just allow the painting to speak to them. In our religious world, we use other methods with scripture: meditation, adoration, Lectio Divina etc. Those who read the scripture passages in preparation for a Sunday Eucharist will tell you that they see different elements in the reading at the Sunday celebration and that they are more alive to them. It is recommended then to read a passage of scripture and spend time with it not so much questioning it but allowing it to speak to you in its own way and its own time. Jesus offers us another way to reflect on scripture. He invites us to act on it; in this way it is more likely to take root in our lives. It also allows each of us to act differently and discover something different from the reading. One of the aims of sharing scripture is to share the riches we have discovered and thus enrich each other's faith. We are all blessed and able to be scriptural scholars since the riches, beauty, wonder and wisdom of scripture are infinite.

Helen Keller: *“Unless we form the habit of going to the Bible in bright moments as well as in trouble, we cannot fully respond to its consolations because we lack equilibrium between light and darkness.”*

Søren Kierkegaard: *“The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly.”*

Pope Francis: *“I would like so much for all Christians to be able to comprehend ‘the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ’ through the diligent reading of the Word of God, for the sacred text is the nourishment of the soul and the pure and perennial source of the spiritual life of all of us.”*

A few quickies with a starter for ten . . .

Q: What do you call a rich elf? **A:** Welfy.

Q: What do you call an old snowman? **A:** Water.

Q: What are the strongest days of the week? **A:** Saturday and Sunday. All the others are weekdays.