

Lenten Reflection

Saturday, March 12, 2016

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“Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.”

“Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.”

John 7: 48-49; 52

The chief priest and Pharisees, as we all know by now, were ruled not by faith in God, but rather by the laws and rules of the temple. Instead of looking toward God, they looked at what they had written and called those who did not, “accursed.”

And they were so blind to learning anything new that they did not even take the time to look into the background of Jesus before they persecuted him. Had they checked, they would have discovered that Jesus had indeed been born in Bethlehem, not Galilee. But, oh, how very righteous the Pharisees and chief priests were! Despite the prophecy in the Old Testament, not one of them believed in Jesus even as a prophet, and certainly not as the Messiah.

Over two thousand years later, are we so different than those Pharisees? Is our faith greater than our church rules and regulations? When you have doubts or need guidance, where do you look? And with what do you look? Do you look with your faith or with your sense of righteousness embodied in the laws and rules?

Jesus does not fit into the words of our rules. Jesus fits between those lines - where faith is first and foremost. So the next time you have those doubts or need some guidance, read between the lines. During this precious season of Lent, open yourself to possibility with great faith!