

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading of the Gospel According to John** (*John 14:1-2*)

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

### Reflection – Jesus Comforts Us

**God is always in charge no matter what happens (cf. Exodus 15:11).** One of the greatest gifts of God to us is our freewill. In this sense we are like God, able to desire, think, decide, plan, etc. Inasmuch as God loves us to the extent unimaginable, He will never impose on our freewill. God can ask, persuade, speak softly (eg. through Scriptures) or come with a rod of discipline (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:21) through our sufferings and pains, give His commandments to guide us but He will never impose His will on us. God's Permitting Will allows the evil by the free will of mankind to be perpetrated in this world. Nothing happens without God first allowing it, and Scripture tells us God is able to turn all things even evil into our benefit (cf. Romans 8:28) provided we cooperate with Him. Knowing that God is always in charge makes it easier for us to accept whatever evil befalls us, knowing and trusting that the only reason God allows it is for our sanctification. God's focus is not short-sighted like ours but always for our eternal good. St. Pio said that to God a single soul has more value to Him than the whole physical universe.

**God will always have the last say (cf. Revelation 22:13).** As the world deviates more and more along the self-destructive paths of materialism, egoism, self-gratification, pride and denial of God, the values of our faith become more and more unacceptable to the popular tastes of the world. As the world embraces self-centred concepts such as atheism, humanism and self-redemption, Christ Crucified becomes a stumbling block for many (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:23). Putting itself outside the blessings of God which it denies, humanity will keep deviating but Jesus Christ remains the same (cf. Hebrews 13:8). Christ's power, love, glory, divinity and all His Promises to us will stand for eternity. Each and every part of His teachings, His concepts, and every single letter of His Word will never pass away (cf. Luke 21:33, Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31). Unlike our ever-changing feelings, God's love is everlasting and unfailing (cf. Jeremiah 31:3). We have to prove ourselves worthy of Him.

**Without trust in Jesus, peace in our hearts is not possible.** Peace is the precious fruit of Christ's redemption. Jesus greeted His disciples with peace after appearing to them after His resurrection. Holy love begets trust. Trust begets peace. Jesus asks us to live in His love and to trust that in His Providence He will always provide for us, in His Power He will save us, in His love He will never abandon us, and that His Promises will always be faithfully kept. But we are to do our part, we need to have faith in Jesus, pick up our cross and follow Him, and live in Christ's love and trust. It is an illusion to love Jesus and not to trust in Him.

**Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken (Psalm 55:22).** We have someone who can receive all our failings, failures, faults, sins, problems, sufferings and all the negatives in our lives without cost. All Jesus asks is our love in return and true sorrow for our sins. Jesus understands each and every one of our problems for He has been subjected to the worst suffering on earth (cf. St. Lawrence Justinian). I need not live in fear and anxiety. I need not waste the present moment by regretting about the past or worrying about the future. God gives me the grace to deal only with the present moment. It is Satan who pulls us into the past through regret and into the future through worry. That's why God asks us not to worry (cf. Matthew 6:25, Luke 12:22) but to trust in Him (cf. John 14:1). God is worthy of our trust.

### Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You are always with me (cf. Matthew 28:20). You are more present to me than I am to myself. You have given me all the indispensable helps to live a life of grace: prayers, the Sacraments, Your Commandments, and Scripture. You and our Blessed Mother are my safe refuge. Even if an army encamps against me, still I will not fear (cf. Psalm 27:3). With You, I have indestructible hope and unfailing love. I thank You Lord Jesus for I rejoice that You are my wonderful, inimitable God! Mary, Protectress of the Faith, pray for me.