

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Matthew (*Matt 7:24-27*) *The Wise and Foolish Builders*

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Be a Wise Builder

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God (cf Matthew 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:3). God wants to impress upon us how important it is for our spiritual progress that we be obedient to His Word. Just as our bodies require food to grow physically, our souls need spiritual nourishment from God’s Word. To mature as a Christian, we strive to have a daily diet of God’s Word, taking the time to ‘digest’ Sacred Scripture in prayerful contemplation and assimilating it into our being through an active obedience to and living of the Word in our daily lives.

For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12). The Word of God is not dead or outdated as some detractors of our faith would like to tell us. Instead, it is living, active and relevant to our lives as the Word of God is eternal and carries with it divine authority in guiding us in the way of life. When active faith is present, the Word of God has power on the physical, emotional and spiritual levels.

All scriptures are inspired by God and are useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God maybe thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We live in a secular world that is trying hard to promote its own worldly values to us. Through God’s Word, we have an infallible guide to discern between the things of eternal value as opposed to the things of this passing world. Through daily prayerful contemplation of God’s Word in our prayer life, we can be molded in minds and hearts for the tasks that God has in His individual plan for each of us in furthering His kingdom here on earth.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105). We can be sure that with the Word of God guiding us and playing a key role in our lives, we will not stumble and be led astray from the path of righteousness even though we may live in a godless world that is full of spiritual darkness and artificial lights, and the pressures to conform to it maybe great. Jesus is the light of the world.

At that time, Jesus full of joy through the Holy Spirit said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children” (Luke 10:21). The Lord reveals to those of simple and trusting hearts the mysteries of His Kingdom. The proud and arrogant would never be able to get close to God (cf. Luke 1:51). Let us approach the Word of God with the simple and innocent heart of a child. With such an open heart, God’s message of love and instruction through Sacred Scripture will not be lost on us.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You are the Incarnate Word, the Eternal Word. Thank you for the gift of Sacred Scripture. In Your written Word, You speak to me personally as a father does to his little child. Your Word carries Your divine authority and serves as an infallible guide as to how live my life. You said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away” (*Matthew 24:35*). In this world of ever changing values, your Word serves as a bulwark in helping me discern between right and wrong, and keeping my conscience clear and active. Help me to be a wise builder and to build my life upon the solid foundation of Your Word. Let Your Word be the joy of my heart and the light to my feet. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, help me develop a great love for Sacred Scripture. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.