

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke (Luke 2:46-51)

After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard Him were astounded at His understanding and His answers. When His parents saw Him, they were astonished, and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for You with great anxiety." And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" But they did not understand what He said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – The Supremacy of God's Will, the Roadmap to our Unceasing joy

Holy courage is needed to do God's will. When the Boy Jesus was lost in Jerusalem, His parents searched for Him anxiously for three days. Mary and Joseph were justified in their anger with Jesus in this situation. However, they did not understand there was a greater thing here that was above their righteous parental feelings of concern and anxiety. Only Jesus understood it perfectly. This explains His seeming nonchalance at the prospect of keeping His parents in a state of great anxiety. The Boy Jesus knew that adhering to His Father's will is His paramount concern. Once the Father's will was carried out, He was at peace. The human issues which may arise because of the adherence to God's will are secondary despite His love and concern for His parents. Doing God's will will always incur the disapproval of and even persecution from some people but nevertheless, human feelings or opinion is always secondary to the supremacy of God's will, the only way to true peace and salvation.

God's will is the summation of His love, mercy and providence for His children. God's greatest desire is the eternal salvation of all His human children. *God wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).* He may have billions of children but He does not want even one to be lost, and He will do all He can to bring back a single lost sheep. The parable Jesus told of the shepherd leaving his 99 sheep to go and look for the one that was lost reflects God's enduring love and concern for each and every one of us. To God, we are not a mere number, a statistic in the crowd. God the Father holds each one of us dear to His Heart like the way He loves Jesus. That's why He sent Jesus into our world. He endured Jesus undergoing a sea of humiliations and torments so that each and every one of us can be saved. Such is the depth of God's divine love which we understand so little. How blessed we are to have a god like ours, the only one true, merciful God!

God's will is in His commandments, Word and teachings. Every parent has a natural desire to give the best to the child. The parent would wish to impart values, morals and life principles to the child to ensure it will not get into harm's way, be equipped to deal with life and to lead a happy life. God wills much more than that for each and every one of His children. Firstly, He made us His own children through adoption through Jesus Christ. His Kingdom belongs to us as we become co-heirs with Jesus Christ. Secondly, He made Himself our glorious, eternal heritage! (cf. Psalm 16:5). To possess God is to possess everything! Such is the infinite love and generosity of God! To help us attain our glorious eternal inheritance, God gives us His road map - His divine, merciful will which is contained in His commandments, His Word and divine teachings.

To be really happy is to be holy in God's eyes. God gives us His will so that we can follow a definite road map to real happiness. This "road map" is based on love: love for God above all persons and things, and loving God in others and in ourselves. Jesus says: *As the Father loves Me, so I also love you. Remain in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete (John 15:9-11).* Everyone has an inner need to be happy but not everyone knows how to find real happiness. Jesus tells us that our real joy is to remain in the love of God Who is the source of all true love and joy. Thus, to be truly happy is to be holy in God's eyes.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, Your Cross on Calvary was Your step into glory - the deep glory that comes from doing the Father's will (cf. Hebrews 12:2). You show us that the way to unceasing joy and glory is to embrace the merciful will of the Father. It will surely involve some temporary suffering to walk on the path of truth but this will be nothing compared to the glory that will be ours. God knows how to reward His faithful children (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9). Through Your obedience to the Father, You won for us all the graces we need to fulfill God's will. In embracing God's will, we will also prove how much we love You. Fulfilling God's will is the key to our holiness, joy and happiness. Open our hearts to love and embrace God's will as You do. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk