

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to John (John 14:6)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Discerning the truth

The Truth will set you free. *To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31-32). The freedom Jesus is talking about is not physical freedom but freedom at the highest level - freedom that lasts – spiritual freedom. It is a freedom from sin that drags us down even in this earthly life. It is an internal freedom that results from knowing the truth of the difference between right or wrong, good or evil, of what is reality even though society would deny it. Discerning the truth is opening our hearts and minds to allow the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth to reveal to us the reality. Truth is never a product of human opinion, no matter how hard those in power try to portray. *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ (Colossians 2:8).*

The Truth will lead to salvation. We will know the truth through the divine teachings of Jesus Christ, only Son of God. Jesus is the Eternal Truth. The teachings of Jesus have the sole purpose of guiding us to walk in the path of truth leading to the eternal inheritance God the Father has planned lovingly for each and every one of His children. The teaching of Jesus is simple: it is based on holy love; for God is love. The two great commandments of love (first, love God above all, and then love neighbor as self) embody the Ten Commandments. For truth to prevail, God always comes first and must take His rightful place over all human matters. *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."* (Acts 4:12). Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God whose precious Blood purchases for us the price of eternal life. *They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved (2 Thessalonians 2:10).*

Compromises of truth lead to sin. Anything which is outside of holy love is a compromise of truth. Truth is synonymous with holy love because it is only when we live in holy love can we live in the truth. Holy love and Truth cannot exist without the other. Deception, lies, falsehoods all result from disorderly self-love and pride which open the door of the heart to evil. Persons in positions of authority have great responsibility towards God to live in the truth so that the souls under their charge can be guided to walk in the path of truth. However, the temptation to pander to the hunger for power, esteem and to personal agenda is so great that there are few real good shepherds in politics and governments of today. Though truth is not synonymous with big titles and authority, weak minds often accept undiscerningly what is portrayed by those in power to be good and true to the detriment of their own souls.

Truth remains truth whether or not it is accepted or rejected. *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away (Matthew 24:35).* The cause of all the problems of the world today stems from society's denial, indifference and rejection of the truth of the existence, sovereignty and dominion of God over all things. Even the technological advancements are through an inspiration of the Holy Spirit and a gift from God, even though we tend not to associate God with high technology. Sin remains a sin even though it is legislated as a right. *Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ (Ephesians 4:14-15).*

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You are the Eternal Truth and anything that leads away from You is untruth, and leads away from salvation. The truth is revealed by the light of the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father, the Spirit of Truth who will guide me into all truth (Cf. John 16:13). The Holy Spirit will testify about You and I also must testify (Cf. John 15:26-27). For that, I need a fuller presence of the Holy Spirit in my soul. Lord, flood my soul with the power, light and grace of Your Spirit so that through my daily life I may testify to Your existence, Your strong and constant love for all people, Your Sacrifice and Salvation, and Your invitation to live in the Truth as the only way to share in Your eternal glory and joy. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.