



Scripture Nugget – Working for food that endures for eternal life

And when they found Him across the sea they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” Jesus answered them and said, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for Me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.” (John 6: 25-27).

Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life... (John 6:27). The Jews who earlier ate their fill of the bread and fish that Jesus multiplied were looking for Him in order to get more of the free meal. Their minds were not on the eternal life that Jesus spoke to them about but on their stomachs. They failed to discern that they were looking at the Son of God Who has the power to give them eternal life that lasts forever and not just the temporal bread and fish that once digested is no more. In their short-sightedness, they chose the inferior option: asking for the temporal when they could have asked Christ for the eternal. How many times have we prayed and asked Christ for temporal things but not for the graces that we need to attain eternal life? Thus, Christ challenges them and us to change our mindsets and hearts so that we can rise above earthly matters and strive for the transcendent eternal. In truth, we are eternal beings. This earthly life is just a pilgrimage in preparation for a life of eternity with God. Christ teaches us clearly that we cannot be successful in God’s eyes if we allow this world to hold us in its power. Many times, Christ warns us against the false allure of this passing world. Enticement of the eye, sensual pleasures and lust for the things of this world (cf. 1 John 2:16) keep unenlightened souls striving unceasingly for bread that perishes. The seed of the Word of God planted in the hearts of those who are preoccupied with this passing world cannot take deep root, and these lives are not fruitful in God’s eyes.

Building on the foundation that is Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15). Everyone who has faith in Christ has a spiritual foundation to build upon. Christ is the cornerstone. How we build upon our foundation will be entirely dependent on what we deem most important in our lives and the time and resources spent in fulfilling our dreams, targets, aims, and objectives. Adjudged according to God’s will, these works will either be gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, depending on their eternal value as determined by God. On judgement day, all these works of our lives will be tested by fire. Those works deemed worthless by God will be consumed by fire. St Paul says: *But if someone’s work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire (1 Corinthians 3:15).* Let us not fill our lives with activities that will be liabilities to us on judgement day, and requiring our painful purification but to live lives glorifying God and enriching ourselves spiritually.

Conversation with JESUS: Precious Lord, open the eyes of our hearts and minds to see the greatness of the hope to which we are called as children of the Most High. It is only when we cannot see the greatness of our transcendent destiny that we choose the inferior option of working for bread that perishes. Purify us poor sinners of the bondages to things of this passing world. Give us the wisdom and discernment to use every present moment to prepare for our glorious destiny, and to glorify God always. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.