

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to John (John 13:30-32)

As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will glorify the Son in Himself, and will glorify Him at once. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Father, Glorify Thy Son!

Christ is co-eternal in glory with His Father. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning (John 1:1-2).* Christ's glory is from the beginning with God, the Father. But Christ did not consider equality and glory with God as something to be clung on to but instead emptied Himself of all His glory and made Himself nothing (cf. Philippians 2:6-7) so that He could accomplish on earth what His Father wanted Him to do. After Judas went off that evening of the Last Supper, Jesus knew His time of suffering and the Cross were drawing very near. It was an assured certainty for He knew He would always do the will of His Father. His Father has mapped out the whole road of suffering for Him. His glory from doing His Father's will is a certainty.

I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began (John 17:4-5). Jesus assumed the Incarnation on earth in order to become God's Suffering Servant. He has to assume flesh in order to feel pain and suffering to redeem a people that God loved so much that He did not flinch to see His only Son abased and humiliated to win back His people. In being obedient to His Father even to His death, Jesus glorified His Father and is in turn glorified by Him.

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world (Galatians 6:14). The glory of our Saviour is in the Cross. We are to walk in the footsteps of the Divine Master. The Cross is to be our glory. Through it we share the glory of Christ. Through His life, sufferings and death, Jesus shows us how to take up the Cross. It was only when Jesus divested Himself of all His divine glory that He was able to assume flesh, become God's Suffering Servant, take up the Cross and fulfil God's plan of salvation for the world. Jesus in turn exhorts us to walk in His footsteps: to deny ourselves, take up the cross daily and follow Him (cf. Luke 9:23, Mark 8:34). It is impossible to carry the cross without first denying ourselves. To put God first and to love unconditionally for the sake of God is not easy. That is why we are called to an interior life of prayer, penance, regular and worthy reception of the Sacraments and a thirst and hunger for the Word of God (cf. Matthew 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:3). Through this interior Christian life, God provides the spiritual strength that we need in order to increase in holiness, a call that He makes to everyone.

Why did Jesus ask to be glorified knowing full well that it is a certainty? We can learn from what Jesus uttered. Jesus demonstrates that we should not take God's promises for granted but rather we are to ask for them in faith, have our desires guided by them and have them as sure foundation of our hopes. We have to prove ourselves worthy of the promises God made to us. God is ever ready to help us in our weaknesses.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, united to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I embrace Your Sacred Heart with the love and adoration of all Your creation. Thank you for stripping Yourself of all Your divine glory in order that You can be lifted up on the Cross to be our Redeemer. I need to partake of Your Cross in order that I may share Your glory. Teach me Divine Master how to empty myself so that I will not reject any cross You send me but to carry it and walk in Your footsteps, for there is no other way to Paradise than the royal way of the Holy Cross of Salvation. Though the Cross is a stumbling block for the Gentiles, I know it is a source of real peace, joy and security for herein lie God's Divine Will which is love and mercy itself. With You at my side and as my source of strength, the cross will be a sweet burden of love that I would not want to give up for anything else. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, give me a great love for the Cross. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.