

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to John (John 15:10)

If you keep My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Holy Love, the Port of Entry

The great longing of Jesus. Jesus said there is no greater love than in dying for one's friend (cf. John 15:13). The image of the crucifix tells the story of His all-consuming personal love for each of us. With His death imminent, at the Last Supper Jesus said, "*I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*" (cf. Luke 22:15). The whole life of Jesus was focussed on the loving, perfect fulfilment of His Father's Will. The loving mission of Jesus continues in heaven where He is constantly interceding for us (cf. Hebrews 7:25). Jesus yearns so much to gather His children under His wings in love and protection but His children are not willing! (cf. Matthew 23:37). It is the great desire of Jesus that each of us remains in His love through fidelity in keeping His commands.

Holy Love - the Port of Entry. Christian love, holy love is the summation of Christ's teachings. Through holy love we live in the abiding presence of God within us (cf. John 14:23). Jesus taught us that our love for Him must be expressed by our fidelity to the eternal Divine will for each of us. Each is a unique masterpiece creation of God with a unique, divine purpose. God's will for each person is contained in the unique, divine purpose leading to our peace and fulfilment. What compromises holy love?

Compromises to holy love - *False piety and spiritual pride.* Unconsciously, such a soul adheres to the externals of religion without a true desire for amendment or growth in personal holiness. Her/his weaknesses include self-righteousness with a quickness to judge others but lacks self-knowledge and an ability to look honestly into own heart to discover and correct faults. Such a one is under the illusion of closeness to God, but displays the unloving, Pharisaic spirit of legalism in her interaction with others.

Compromises to holy love - *Immersion in the spirit of the world.* Like a seed sown in shallow soil, such a soul succumbs to the allurements of the world and seeks security in earthly things: career, material well-being, material success, other people, oneself, power, position, reputation, human esteem, etc. and replaces the need for God with earthly things or persons which do not satisfy or give inner peace.

Compromises to holy love - *Immersion in the spirit of the flesh* – Manifested in egoism, inordinate pleasure-seeking and self-gratification resulting in impure entertainment, sexual immorality, pride, indifference, etc. *The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God (Romans 8:6-8).*

Compromises to holy love - *Discouragement and anxiety* – Unchecked, these are serious obstacles to growth in holiness and results from lack of trust in God and not fully living in the present moment. The painful past is not surrendered to God and the future seems to be frightening due to lack of trust in God. Lack of trust in God stems from weakness in the virtues: faith, love and hope.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You want me to be happy and holy always. You invite me to live in Your holy love through loving fidelity to Your Will. I understand holy love is the road to salvation. But I am pulled in so many directions: by my own weak human nature and by the allure of this passing world. Show me anything in my heart which opposes holy love and holy truth, and help me cast it out forever. You are Eternal Truth and Eternal Love. With the self knowledge of my faults, help me sincerely correct the attitudes of my heart. Let my love for You be exteriorised in my thoughts, words and actions. Just as You, Incarnate Love, when lifted up on the Cross draws all humanity to Yourself, help me draw others to You through my loving, sincere actions. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, make me holy as You are holy. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.