

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Book of Psalms (*Psalms 119: 33-37*)

Teach me, Lord, the way of Your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so that I may keep Your law and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path of Your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward Your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to Your word. The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – Jesus, my interior teacher

Jesus, the interior teacher. Jesus is the only teacher who can delve into the mind, intellect, heart, soul, spirit and will of a person to impart His divine, eternal truths. No amount of assiduous human intellectual learning can surpass the lessons imparted by the Divine Master Himself. A strong case in point is St. Faustina, a very simple nun with little formal education but whose love for and trust in the Lord had few parallels. Her spiritual writings reflect such an advanced theological level that it can only be assumed to be directly taught by the Divine Master Himself with whom the saint enjoyed a high level of intimacy.

The light and power of faith. The limited human intellect cannot by itself grasp the truths of our faith which are divine mysteries beyond human understanding. Instead, Jesus works through the light and power of our faith to reveal and impart to our innermost being the truths of our faith. Thus a person without faith would not be able to read Scripture in the way a person with faith is able to do so. The first would be operating purely on a physical level and would naturally discount anything that is outside his human understanding to a fable, while the latter would be operating on a supernatural level and would be more able to delve into the mysteries of God. It is faith that makes the difference. The gift of faith comes from Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith (cf. Hebrews 12:2).

Jesus works through the Holy Spirit. *But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth (John 16:13).* In teaching us, Jesus works through His Spirit, the Holy Spirit in enlightening our minds with knowledge, understanding and acceptance of God's laws and precepts. The action of Jesus through the Holy Spirit is limited only by our own internal disposition towards the working of the Holy Spirit within us, our level of faith, love and humility, and the degree of our desire to grow closer to God. It is never dependent on our human intelligence which if not applied with humility will act against the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, giving rise to spiritual pride.

The humble ones are easy for God to teach. *At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children (Matthew 11:25).* Throughout salvation history, God has shown He can do mighty things with the humble simply because they allow God to be God. They have no doubt in His power, do not try to apply their limited human understanding to explain His mysteries and understand their position before Him. They are totally secure in God, are easy to impart the divine truths to because of their simple, strong faith and an open heart to God.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, with all my heart I wish to know You better so that I can love You with a more ardent love. How can I narrow this chasm between us unless You reveal more of Yourself to me? To do this, help me study Your Word, Your life, Your Passion with greater devotion and love, and deepen it through prayer and meditation like our Lady *who treasured up all these things and pondered them in Her heart (cf. Luke 2:19).* Just as You have done for the two disciples going to Emmaus, enkindle also in my heart the fire of Your love as You open my heart to Scripture. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, help me to commit myself to the living of my faith in my daily life. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.