

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (*Matthew 11:25*)

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned You have revealed them to the childlike." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Humility to see the Truth and God's ways

Many search for it but cannot find it; others find it but cannot accept it. Pilate with Jesus standing in front of him asked: What is the truth? (cf. John 18:38). Pilate, despite coming so close to Jesus, failed to grasp in his heart that Jesus is the Eternal Truth even after Jesus told him plainly: "I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice." (cf. John 18:37). Pilate's question: "What is the truth?" is a question that resonates in many hearts. Out of love, God puts into every human heart the inmost desire to know the Truth. *God wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4)*. For those who do not know that Jesus is the Eternal Truth, they will come into this knowledge if they humbly seek for it: *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you (Matthew 7:7)*. This is a wondrous promise of God who wants every single child of His to be saved.

Truth gives us the highest form of freedom – spiritual freedom. *Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in Him, "If you remain in My Word, you will truly be My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)*. Jesus teaches us two important things here. Firstly, to know the truth we have to adhere to and live His Word which includes His teachings; and secondly, knowledge of God's truths will set us free from sin and eternal damnation. Jesus teaches about the truth in more than one occasion. He tells His disciples **His Word is truth** (cf. John 17:17). He tells them that **He is the Truth** (cf. John 14:6). Thus, Jesus and all that He stands for are truth. Anything that runs contrary to God's Word and teachings even if it is accepted and legalized by man cannot be true in God's eyes. At our final judgement, we will be judged not according to man-made laws but by God's. We will be judged not by how we adhere to man's will but God's.

Pride blinds the heart and mind to the truth. Humility is a virtue that God desires very much to see in the hearts of His children. Jesus says: *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves (Matthew 11:29)*. Jesus teaches many virtues but for teaching humility He prefaced it with "learn from Me", a strong reference to Himself as the ultimate model for our behaviour. Without humility, we as God's creatures and children cannot render to God the adoration and allegiance that is rightfully His. We cannot see the sins in our hearts and our need to seek forgiveness from God. We cannot see sin when confronted with sin. Without humility, we fail to see the Hand of God in our daily life, and fail to give thanks and glory to God. Without humility, our little world revolves around ourselves and we become our own little gods, doing only what is pleasing or profitable to ourselves, with this becoming the mission and aim of our empty lives. Jesus says: *I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10)*.

Humility helps us to see ourselves as we really are and to understand God's ways and mysteries. *Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God (Matthew 5:8)*. Scripture shows us that all the great ones of God have one thing in common: they were humble and loved God in a big measure. Because of their humility and love for God, God was able to use them in a big way in His plan of salvation for the world. Our Blessed Mother Mary reveals to us through her Magnificat that God noticed her especially for her humility: *For He has looked upon His handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed (Luke 1:48)*. God prizes the virtue of humility greatly because in such a soul the Holy Spirit can work unhampered His graces of sanctification for that soul. If we do not resist, through our weaknesses and sinfulness, the work of God's graces in our soul, we will become saints overnight and earth will become like heaven!

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, give me the true humility to see You as You truly are: my God, my Lord, my All to Whom I owe everything and only Whom deserves all my love and allegiance. And to see myself in the true light that I am nothing without Your grace to uphold me. You have revealed to the humble what You kept hidden from the clever and learned. Humble my proud spirit and help me to become little in Your eyes. Give me all the help I need to remain true to Your Word and Your teachings so that I will always remain on the true path that leads to Your glorious Kingdom. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk