

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading of the Gospel According to John (John 15:16-17)**

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in My name the Father will give you. This is My command: Love each other. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Reflection – Bearing lasting gifts to my Heavenly Father**

**“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord (Isaiah 55:8).** St Paul reminds us that even if we give all we possess to the poor and offer up our bodies to be burnt but do it without love, we achieve nothing (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:3). To God the value of a gift is not in its size, its grandeur, its attractiveness and value in the eyes of others but in the amount of love that goes into it.

**A childlike heart.** Jesus says: Unless we change and become like little children we will not enter the kingdom of heaven (cf. Matthew 18:3). In a childlike heart there is no unforgiveness, bitterness nor grudges. Humble love resides in and guards a childlike heart. It is always ready to forgive and make allowances for the defects in the character of others. It does not judge but prays for the person to triumph over perceived faults and weakness, and speaks up gently on this when it is in his/her position to do so. The trustful love of God leads the childlike heart not to question the adversities it faces but to submit in loving obedience and trust. The hallmark of a childlike heart is docility and trust in God. It is an image of the heart of Jesus. Through faithful and humble correspondence to God’s graces a childlike heart can be attained by any sincere follower of Christ (cf. Philippians 4:13).

**Charity in truth - Love of God above all else.** There is an order to love. The two great commandments that Christ gives to His followers command us to love God first, followed by loving others in the way we love ourselves. (cf. Matthew 22:37-39). To expand on this, Jesus says: *Anyone who loves their father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me (Matthew 10:37).* Love means committed service. *Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62).* Much work needs to be done in God’s kingdom. To each is given talents and a unique part in building up God’s kingdom that no one else can fulfil.

**A share in the divine mission of Christ.** Most precious to God is the salvation of all His children. Every parent desires the very best for their children no matter how badly their children behaved. God’s love for all His human creatures supersedes by far the greatest love an earthly parent can hold for his/her child. As followers of Christ we share in Christ’s divine work of salvation of souls. St Paul says: *Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the church (Colossians 1:24).* Through His death on the Cross Jesus paid in full for the redemption and salvation of our souls. However, He cannot force His salvation and His promise of eternal life on people since people are given free will to accept His promise of eternal life or to reject it. Thus, Jesus needs us to help draw souls to Him. *Jesus said: I thirst. (John 19:28).* Jesus is thirsty for souls and yearns for the salvation of all people, His children.

**I am the living bread that came down from heaven...(John 6:51).** So few followers of Christ really understand His gift of gifts of Himself in the Holy Eucharist. When He first broached the subject, many followers left Him (cf. John 6:60-66). Two thousands years later after the gift was given, the situation is not much different. Jesus lamented to St. Margaret Mary: I desire to be honoured in the Blessed Sacrament but I find no one to satisfy my most ardent desires! How often is Jesus left abandoned in the tabernacle with so few remembering to visit Him. So many others receive Him in Holy Communion in an indifferent, routine sort of way. How our poor Lord suffers! St. John Vianney says: *Put all the good works in the world against one good Communion, they will be like a grain of dust beside a mountain. St John Vianney, Patron Saint of Priests, The Little Catechism of the Curé of Ars. Chapter 13.*

### **Conversation with Jesus**

Precious Lord, You are the vine and I am the branch. Unless the branch is united to the vine, it will fall off, dry up and be fit only for fire. In as much as I am united to You, my efforts will bear fruits accordingly. In everything I do, let me be guided only by Your love and Your holy Truth. Anything else will lead to fruits that will not stand the test of time. Transform my heart and let the fire of Your love burn away all the pride and disorderly self love in my heart. Help me to develop virtues of true humility and trustful love. Inspire in my heart a great love for souls so that I can draw many souls to You through living a simple, virtuous life focussed on prayers, the Sacraments and sacrifice. Draw me always to Your heavenly presence on earth in the Blessed Sacrament. Mary, Mother of the Blessed Sacrament and my Mother too, give me the grace of a great devotion for the Blessed Sacrament. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.