

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Matthew (*Matthew 13: 13-15*)

This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’ The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Conscience in Crisis

Human conscience has been taken over by man-made gods: false gods of money, greed, lust, power, self-gratification, care of reputation and other people’s opinion, self-esteem, disorderly self-love, pride, to name a few. Turning inwards and focussing on themselves, people feel a hunger for these things that drive them but inner peace eludes them no matter how much they achieve. Their appetites are never satisfied and hunger for more of the same. Feeling like trapped in a web, they find it difficult to free themselves. Trapped in this mental mode, the value they place on themselves is based on the material success they achieved. Not understanding they are eternal beings, they focus short-sightedly on the earthly passing treasures. Not realising that their hidden actions will be brought to light, they continue pandering confidently to their selfish desires at the expense of less fortunate others. *There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known* (*Matthew 10:26*).

Demanding sin as a human right of choice. In our society today moral issues have become political issues. Thus, people clamour for same-sex marriages, abortion and euthanasia to be legalised and supported by legislation. The definition of a marriage to mean a union of a man and a woman is now in question. A baby is now no longer safe in its own mother’s womb. Is it a wonder that the world is now no longer a safe place? More and more people seem to think it is a human right to take a life and determine when to die. Sin is never a private affair but affects the whole universe which is created by one God. Conversely a good deed has a good effect on the world.

Man-made civil laws cannot justify the breaking of God’s commandments. Though human beings may keep on changing and diverting from his true self, God is unchanging (cf. Hebrews 13:8). God’s laws and commandment stand forever by which all of His children will be judged. *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away* (*Matthew 24:35, Luke 21:33*).

Moral degeneration renders sin acceptable and obliterates the need for a saviour. Once sin is not recognised as such, the need for accountability for one’s actions disappears. More and more people live their lives geared primarily towards the fulfilment of their sensual pleasures to the detriment of their inner spirituality. Not understanding that their actions have eternal consequences, people see religion as being for the weak and feeble, a delusion and a waste of time.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I consecrate my heart and mind to You. Cast out from my mind anything which opposes holy truth and any pretensions and arguments which set itself against God. Purify my mind and fill it with Your knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Take my calloused heart and place it in Your flame of divine love of Your Heart. Let this sacred flame burn away and consume my disorderly self-love and pride. Fill my heart with Your divine love. May I always remember that it was sin that put You on the Cross and never to trivialise it. May Your kingdom be more and more established in my heart through my striving to walk in Your footsteps every day by practising holy love, self control and mortification. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, pray for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.