

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew (*Matthew 22:36-40*)

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Loving God with an abandonment is necessary to feel real peace

(Perfect love drives out all fear (1 John 4:18))

Real peace is from the blood of Jesus Christ shed for the reconciliation of mankind with God who loves mankind with true love. *For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross (Colossians 1:19-20).* A person who chooses to live in unrepented habitual sin is spiritually separated from God and does not have the chance to feel real peace. The precious Blood of Christ is shed in vain for this person who will not experience real peace on this earth and will experience torture, despair and pitch darkness in the next one when the light of God is totally and permanently withdrawn from his soul once he dies. True peace is from God, and the possession of the whole world cannot give this (Matthew 16:26).

Trials and sufferings can snuff out the peace in the heart if trust in God is weak. *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You (Isaiah 26:3).* When Christ commanded St. Peter to come walking towards Him on the water, Peter could do so. But when he noticed what danger he was in and when he started doubting the power of Jesus, he began to be afraid and to sink (cf. Matthew 14:27-32). Jesus says to us: Do not be afraid. Just believe (cf. Mark 5:36, Luke 8:50).

Loving God with an abandonment is to entrust ourselves fully to the merciful love of God. To do this we need two criteria. Do we have a good insight into the love that God holds for us in His heart? Do we have a conviction of the absolute power of God in our lives, the God who only spoke and creation came about (cf. Genesis 1:3 ff) and who let His people win a military battle simply by chanting His praises (cf. 2 Chronicles 20:20-24)? It is unwise to trust someone who does not care for us and who has no power to make his promises true. Are we able to say with the psalmist: *Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident (Psalm 27:3).*

True Love must be repaid with true love in order that peace can be found in the heart. For the love that God bears for us in His heart, He demands a return of His true love. Far from being over-demanding, God's commandments to love Him with an abandonment is in line with His divine laws for our eternal good. This love commandment makes us like Himself, makes us worthy of being sons and daughters of Him, prepares us for our heavenly joy and reign with Him, and very importantly gives us true peace on earth while we are still trying to make the grade of being worthy of God, and enables us to love others with the fullness of God's love. This commandment paves the way to attain our fullest potential of what God plans for each of us.

Where there is true love, there is peace. True love is from God and true peace stems from true love for God. Where is true love for God in the heart, there reigns peace as well. There is peace as perfect love drives out fear. *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love (1 John 4:18).* There is peace because the person who has a true love for God is able to love others with the fullness of God's love.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, true peace is the fruit of true love for You, my Highest Good. I get inner peace, a peace that the world cannot give when my heart, mind, soul and spirit are in harmony. They are only in harmony when You reign in my entirety. You cannot reign in me if I reserve room in my heart for a lesser love. Only when I have given my heart entirely to You then would there be no room in my heart for unholy fear. Then I will be enabled to love others with the fullness of Your love. Then I will be in peace even if I am in the midst of trials and sufferings. Lord, I surrender my heart and my entirety to You today. Please open my heart so that You can flood my soul with your light and love. Set my soul aflame with the fire of Your love. Mary, Mother of Salvation reserve my heart only for Jesus. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.