

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Book of Prophet Jeremiah (*Jeremiah 29:11*)

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – God's Plan for Every Soul is Glorious from the Beginning to the End

God predestined us to be His children. *He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will (Ephesians 1:5).* God is pleased to make us His children through the graces Jesus won for us on the cross. We are no less than members of God's family! That makes us co-heirs with Jesus Christ, the only Son of God! *Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory (Romans 8:17).*

If we share the sufferings of Jesus then we also share His glory (cf Romans 8:17). No one on earth can pretend life is easy. Suffering touches every soul because of the existence of sin. The Passion of Jesus gives meaning to our own suffering. United to His Passion, our human sufferings can share in the infinite merits of His divine suffering, making it possible for our suffering to be meritorious, redemptive and infinite in value. Jesus gives us each a chance to sip from His bitter chalice for our purification and to help in the salvation of others especially those closest to us. Each and every one of us have a unique role in God's master plan of salvation (cf. Colossians 1:24). Just as Jesus let Simon of Cyrene help carry His cross, He desires our help in bringing about God's master plan of salvation. Far from leading useless lives, we share in Christ's divine mission in bringing God's kingdom down to earth. *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).*

The triumph of grace over sin. Where sin increased, grace increased all the more (cf Romans 5:20). Man uses his freewill in pursuing the desires of his lower self, thereby distancing himself from God. God has a solution and provides for every misfortune that befalls a soul. The triumph over sin is brought about by Jesus Christ through His life, death and resurrection. Through His death on the Cross, Jesus won for us all the graces we need to live in righteousness and eventually to be made worthy for heaven. Through His command to the Apostles to perpetuate His Sacrifice (cf. Luke 22:19) through the Mass, Jesus gave His representatives the power to transmit His saving graces all over the world every day. Even if a poor soul has spent his life doing his own will till the eleventh hour, if his heart is open to God's saving graces, heaven will be open to him (cf. Matthew 20:1-16). As a good parent, God will fight tooth and nail to save each and every one of His children; however, we must understand that first, forgiveness of our sins must be sought from Him.

St Paul tells us that we cannot imagine the glory God has planned for those who love Him (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9). God cannot be outdone in generosity. He knows how to reward us. Scripture tells us that God will be our inheritance (cf. Psalm 16:5)! What an eternal reward! *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).* While on earth, we try to do everything for His glory. In heaven, we know God will share with us His glory. *Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified (Romans 8:30).* In heaven when we contemplate with unveiled faces the glory of the Lord, we ourselves are transformed into His image with His ever-increasing glory (cf. 2 Corinthians 3:18)!

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, out of love, You brought me into the world with a beautiful, unique plan for me. From the very beginning You predestined me to be a child of God. Such is the dignity You raised me to. I was wonderfully made in Your image with freewill and a soul that lasts for eternity. When I fall from grace, You are there to lift me up and if my heart is open enough, to raise me up to even a greater love of You after my fall. Though I may experience loneliness in my life You promise me that I will never be left alone (cf. Matthew 28:20). Though I may feel burdened with troubles You are always present to refresh me and to provide whatever grace I need to overcome my difficulty if I turn to You in trust. I know that I will never be tried beyond my endurance (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13). You have even prepared a place for me in heaven (cf. John 14:2-3). Give me all the graces I need so that I may spend my life glorifying You through living a life of obedience to You. Mary, Mother of Salvation pray that I maybe made worthy of all Christ's promises. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.