

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Matthew (*Matthew 6:33*)

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – To be given everything, seek first the Kingdom of God

No one can serve two masters. *Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money* (Matthew 6:24). Besides money there are many other false gods in our current world e.g. self, ego, self-pride, disorderly self-love, reputation, power, luxurious and comfortable life, etc. In the spiritual world there is no middle ground - *Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters* (Matthew 12:30). That is why our choice has to be well defined and we have to be sure who our Master really is, not only professed in faith but really served out in the ordinary of our daily lives.

God is our Alpha and our Omega – our beginning and our end (cf. Revelation 22:13). As followers of Christ, we are in the service of God and His people regardless of their colour, creed or language. All our actions are to be initiated by God and their end must be for God and all that God stands for especially salvation and well-being of His people on earth.

To fulfil our life, we live the gift of our life the way God wants us to. Just as a good earthly father teaches his children how to live a good life, our Heavenly Father gives us an excellent example of Jesus to follow, to walk in the way of truth and holy love in order not to be tainted by this world, to attain sanctification and to return to our Heavenly Father to share in His eternal glory and joy. His direction, His guidance, His love, His desires are all distilled into His Divine Will for each of us.

Discerning the Eternal Divine Will. God does not need a voice to speak to us. He has countless ways in which to do it. Primarily He speaks to us through our conscience – our meeting room with God. Hence, it is important to keep our conscience pure, properly formed, delicate and active. We need to know the values and truths of our faith in order to walk on earth as a child of God. With a properly formed conscience, a desire to discern and follow God's will and a bit of humility, God's voice will not fail to be heard by our heart.

The kingdom of God comes at a personal cost because true love is sacrificial. *We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles (1 Corinthians 1:23).* Jesus and Mary are our perfect examples. In order to re-gain God's kingdom on earth from sin, Jesus stepped down from His throne of glory in heaven, put on human flesh and weakness, endured a hard life of manual labour, suffering, rejection and humiliation. He was born in poverty and deprivation and died in public humiliation. *Jesus, Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness (Philippians 2:6-7).* To all external appearances, His life was a total failure. However, through it all Jesus established God's kingdom on earth, showed us the way to live and love and to understand the value of suffering as a means of expiation and salvation.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You stepped down from Your glorious, majestic throne in heaven, to undertake an earthly life of pain, suffering, and humiliation to show me that the Kingdom of God is worth dying for. It is our right as children of God and it is Your greatest desire that we inherit it. Through Sacred Scripture You give us an idea what our heavenly home will be like. It will be worth every pain and suffering that You sent us on earth for our sanctification. It will be like a mother giving birth to a child. In heaven we will see You face to face and be like copies of You. I trust all Your Promises for You alone are the eternal, unchanging Truth and Love. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, walk with us on our heavenly journey. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.