

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to St John (*John 8:31-32*)

To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ *Without holy love and humility we cannot live in the Truth*

God is the unchanging, eternal Truth. *Jesus said: I am the way, the truth and the life (cf. John 14:6).* God's eternal truths stand forever irrespective of human opinion or reasoning. God's unconditional love for every human being is an eternal truth. *I have loved you with an everlasting love (cf. Jeremiah 31:3).* To fulfill the purpose of his/her life on earth, every person needs to open his/her heart to accept God's unconditional love and His promise of eternal life to those who believe in Jesus Christ, His Son. God's mercy is unlimited when the sinner calls to Him. God's justice is also real and is operative from the moment of our death. God's greatest desire is for everyone to be saved and to understand the eternal truths (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4). As a loving father, He wants each and every one of His children to inherit the glorious inheritance He has prepared for everyone. However, as He has gifted His children with freewill, God does not force His children to love Him but to come to Him out of their own freewill.

The Truth will set us free from our sins (cf. John 8:32). Jesus, the Eternal Truth came to earth, borne incarnate of the Blessed Virgin Mary to deliver all people from the slavery of their sins. To every sin there is a debt to God's justice. *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).* By the Precious Blood of the Lamb of God which is Jesus Christ, our sins are washed away and we are given righteousness of Him who saved us. As a result, being clothed in Christ, we are justified in the eyes of God. Truth is holy love personified by Jesus Christ. Holy love is the prescribed way of life for His followers and is the way to spiritual freedom.

The world revolves around God and His mighty purposes (cf. Psalm 24:1, Psalm 50:12). There is no other god (cf. Isaiah 45:5). The world and everything in it belong to God. Each living creature including people is brought into existence in a loving act of God in accordance with His mighty plan and purposes. Everything exists to give glory to God the Most High. When we do not give glory to God, we retain something which does not belong to us but which rightfully is due to God alone. When we do not believe in God or give Him the love and devotion due to Him, we cut ourselves off from true reality, open ourselves to demonic deception, and distance ourselves from God, His love and His blessings. When we deny God, we open ourselves to the Evil One who is keen to lead us to eternal damnation. God gives us the choice between life and death (cf. Deuteronomy 30:19, Jeremiah 21:8). We choose. God does not force us though He persuades and exhorts us.

The teachings of our faith are true. *Jesus said: Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away (Matthew 24:35, Luke 21:33, Mark 13:31).* Jesus came to show us how to live and love. He shows through His own life of simplicity and sacrifice that a simple life lived for God is one leading to our glorious eternity. Thus, Jesus teaches us that true love is putting God first in everything, which will flow down to genuine love for others. Without the foundation of love for God, love for others cannot stand the test of time and is shallow. However, when we love others for the sake of God, we are empowered to love even our enemies and those who hardly deserve our love. Love becomes not human but holy and true when we love others for the sake of God. Thus, true love is tireless and can stand the test of time.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You are the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to God the Father except through You. I pledge my allegiance to Your holy will which is eternal truth. Open all hearts to the truth of Your love for us, the truth that You died over 2,000 years ago to open the gates of heaven to all people whom God the Father has adopted to be His children through Your Most Sacred Blood shed on the cross. In His love, He has prepared a glorious inheritance for each and everyone through the acceptance of Your loving act of self sacrifice on Mt Calvary. Let not the enemy of our salvation blind any one from this liberating truth. Let Your Spirit of Truth flood every heart, mind and soul to cast out all falsehoods, lies and deception all of which originate from the enemy of our salvation who has the plan to drag all of humanity into eternal damnation. Render all hearts meek and humble so that Your Holy Spirit can convict every person of his/her sins so that all can run to You to seek forgiveness of sins, and thereby inherit the glorious inheritance that has been planned for all of us since the foundation of the world. Mary, Mother of Salvation pray for us. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.