

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Matthew (*Matthew 7:24-27*)

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Following our conscience is not enough, we need to live Christ’s teachings

Human conscience is impaired by pride and sin. When a soul does not wish to retain the knowledge of God even though God’s existence is evident from the wondrous works of His creation around us, he shuts himself off from God’s blessings and leaves open his mind and conscience to the kingdom of darkness (cf. Romans 1:28-32). As a result, his conscience is not formed in divine truth. Falsehoods take over. Sins are not recognized as sin but as personal rights and freedom of personal choice worthy to promote, fight for, and to legalise. Thus, his basis for morality is not God’s eternal laws but the rights and freedom of the individual regardless of how this will impact on the welfare of others.

Those who abandon the faith are especially vulnerable to evil spirits. *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron (1 Timothy 4:1-2).* Once faith is lost, the mind and conscience are no longer protected by divine truths which can detect lies and falsehoods spread by the Master Deceiver and the demons. In such a case, untruths are embraced as new truths, and deception of the mind takes over. The mind is a key battle field of Satan who is an expert in infiltrating minds with his subtle suggestions, suspicion and falsehoods.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6). We are to have a healthy distrust of our own understanding, judgement, opinion. More often than not, we fall victim to overconfidence in ourselves, failing to see ourselves as God would see us. We are blind to our own faults but are quick to detect the same fault in others. We fail to see how our sins impair our conscience, how we compromise the truth and teachings of our faith without much feeling. We fail to see the seriousness of sins because we judge how serious a sin is depending on the feelings it invokes in us. We do not try to understand how sin separates us from God, and how God goes to such pains to free us from sin. Oftentimes, we are led by pride and feelings instead of true faith. This is what St Paul warned us against (2 Corinthians 5:7).

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple (Psalm 19:7). When God gifted us with freewill, He hopes that we will freely love Him as He freely loves us. God’s ways are perfect, and He helps us to walk in His holiness so as to be able to be with Him in eternity glory, to claim the inheritance God has lovingly prepared for each of His children. Jesus says: *If you love Me, keep My commands (John 14:5).* God’s commands, laws and precepts are given to us, not to make life difficult for us but to guide us firmly on the path of truth.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, sanctify me in the truth. Your Word is truth. Form my conscience in holy truth. Engrave Your laws and commands in my heart. Close my heart to deceit. May I walk in obedience to Your teachings all the days of my life so as not to stray away from the path of truth. Strengthen my faith so that I will not be conformed to the world that is relentless in its promotion of its own values. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus. www.twoheart5.hk