

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (*Wisdom 1:1-6*)

Love justice, you who judge the earth. Think of the Lord in goodness, and seek Him in integrity of heart. Because He is found by those who test Him not, and He manifests himself to those who do not disbelieve Him. For perverse counsels separate a man from God, and His power, put to the proof, rebukes the foolhardy. Because into a soul that plots evil wisdom enters not, nor dwells she in a body under the debt of sin. For the Holy Spirit of discipline flees deceit and withdraws from senseless counsels. And when injustice occurs it is rebuked. For wisdom is a kindly spirit, yet she acquits not the blasphemer of his guilty lips. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – We need wisdom to see things from God’s perspective

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). Holy fear of God stems from a deep knowledge of God’s goodness and infinite love which leads to a great aversion to offending or hurting Him in any way. Thus, the more we experience God’s love and mercy and the more we understand how our sins hurt and offend God and separate us from Him who does everything to bring us close to Him, the more we have holy fear of God. Holy fear of God is holy wisdom and puts us on the path of truth.

We need wisdom to see things from God’s perspective. *For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord (Isaiah 55:8).* Because God is always acting for our eternal good, whilst we are more inclined for immediate tangible results, God’s ways are often inscrutable to us. Thus, we fail to perceive, understand and appreciate the numerous ways God intervenes in our life in order to help us to re-focus on our heavenly goal and be freed of deadly earthly attachments and pleasures. Jesus, the Just One has His earthly life filled with sufferings to show us the gravity of sins and how they separate us from God. He shows through His earthly life that the way to God is not easy but one of love and sufferings. Sufferings are sent to us but *we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).* We will have more inner peace if we can see things from God’s perspective.

We need the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. *But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth (John 16:13).* More so now than ever, in a world that promotes sin as rights and freedoms and declares its own truths based on self-interest, we need the Holy Spirit. It is through the Holy Spirit that God imparts to us His divine light that can never be obtained through reading a great number of books, which enables us to value things at their true worth, understand divine mysteries, discern the action of God in our daily life, exercise wise judgement in difficult situations and impart the gift of self-knowledge which is fundamental to growth in personal holiness, preventing the devout soul from growing in self-righteousness.

God would love to give us His Holy Spirit in its fullness but are our souls ready to accommodate such a guest? *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! (Luke 11:13).* Jesus sets a very good example on how to get a greater infilling of the Holy Spirit. Jesus prays constantly. To be in-filled with the Holy Spirit we have to renounce the spirit of the world that is prevailing in the world today. The spirit of the world operates through influencing the way we think, affects our hearts by giving us inordinate love of ourselves, or other persons or things of this passing world and unhealthy attachment of all kinds. Though already filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus withdrew to the desert and fasted for forty days during which He was subjected to great temptation. It was after His stay in the desert that Jesus was filled with power of the Holy Spirit (Cf. Luke 4:14). Temptations and trials once overcome, lift up a soul to operate on a higher level of spiritual strength.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You are the Lord of wisdom. Purify my mind of demonic deception, spiritual blindness, lies, falsehoods and anything which opposes holy truth. Flood my mind with Your uncreated light, knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Help me put on the mind of Christ so that I may see things at their true worth and the path that leads to my heavenly inheritance. Purify my heart of disorderly self-love and pride. May I heed the inspirations of Your Spirit living in me that always remind me to be charitable in my thoughts, words and behaviour. May I have the light to see Your protecting and providing Hand in my daily life especially in the most difficult moments of my life, and understand that You truly care for me, more so than a mother tenderly caring for her new borne. You have died for me, I know I am very precious to You. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You Jesus.