



Scripture nugget – Learning to trust God

With firm purpose You maintain peace; in peace, because of our trust in You. Trust in the LORD forever! For the LORD is an eternal Rock (Isaiah 26:3-4).

Then the LORD said to Moses: Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the Israelites to set out (Exodus 14:15). The Book of Exodus reveals to us God's great divine power, His overwhelming desire and patience to save and help His people, and is instrumental to help us grow in knowledge and trust of God. When the Israelites realized that the Egyptians were hot in pursuit after they escaped from Egypt, they were terrified and cried to Moses for help. Moses in turn cried to God Who instructed the Israelites to proceed on their journey. God instructed Moses to lift up his staff, stretch out his hand over the Red Sea, splitting it in two, so that the Israelites may pass through the sea on dry land. After the Israelites passed through safely, the Egyptians tried to pursue them but were drowned when the walls of water flowed back. God Who is the only One to give life, is the only One Who can take life as and when He wills, and we know that out of evil He can draw good (cf. Romans 8:28). When God instructed the Israelites to continue on their journey despite the impending danger, they obeyed without an inkling that God would cause the Red Sea to open up for them to cross on dry land! Thus, we should also persevere when God gives us a difficult task to do, knowing that He would intervene in a timely and effective way when the going forward becomes impossible by human terms. God can do all things to help us if we trust Him.

God made great preparation for the hearts and minds of the Israelites before they left Egypt. In Egypt the Israelites were treated like slaves assigned to hard labour, and were strained both in spirit and in body. God manifested mightily His power to the Israelites and Egyptians that He is able to do as He promised. Through His own divine power, God brought on not one but ten terrifying plagues (water turning to blood; plague of frogs, gnats, flies, livestock pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and the death of firstborn children) in order to make Pharaoh consent and let the Israelites go as Moses had requested. After each plague disappeared, God hardened the heart of Pharaoh to refuse so as to pave the way for the next plague. Thus, the Israelites were able to witness first-hand what God can do mightily for His people. God has demonstrated convincingly that He is able to do anything He wills for the welfare of His people. Since we are given freewill, it is really up to us to cooperate and trust in God Who is only limited by our lack of faith and trust in Him.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You took every care of the Israelites which included an army of around 600,000 fighting fit men (cf. Numbers 1:46) during the Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land. Before they left Egypt, You prepared their hearts and minds by the execution from Your mighty Hand the ten terrifying plagues on the Egyptians but which left the Israelites unscathed. You manifested Your great, unparalleled power through the parting of the Red Sea in order that the Israelites can escape from the pursuing Egyptians. Your holy Presence guided them as a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud by day. Every need was taken care of including their clothes and shoes (cf. Nehemiah 9:21). Open my heart to love Scripture so that I can gain a deeper insight into the love and power of God. Magnify my faith and trust in You so that I will always seek Your will, walk on the true path and have peace in my soul. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.