

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading from the Gospel according to John (John 6:35)**

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reflection** ~ In Jesus is the truth we thirst for. In Jesus is the love we need. In Jesus is the life we seek.

**In Jesus is the truth we thirst for.** *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6).* Truth especially moral and religious is very much a victim of compromise in recent years. Pope Benedict XVI has identified relativism as the greatest problem of our time in his book, *Fede, verità, tolleranza - Il cristianesimo e le religioni del mondo* (Faith, Truth, Tolerance - Christianity and the World Religions). Relativism is the thinking that there is no universal, absolute truth but that truth differs from person to person and culture to culture. According to relativism, truth is relative to what each person or culture thinks. It places human opinion, feelings, culture on top of all truths. It says nothing is absolutely right or wrong but all depends on how you look at it. Relativism is an example of subtle deception of Satan who leads the whole world astray (cf. Revelation 12:9). Weakness of humanity succumbs to this erroneous thinking because it allows the compromised conscience to be comfortable in error and wrong doing. In relativism, there is no evil or guilt or recognition of sin because everything is relative depending on how you feel or look at it. Jesus came to debunk this false thinking which works against our salvation.

**Jesus is the eternal, unchanging truth (cf. John 14:6).** All His teachings are divine and true. His teachings on His divine truths are simple and clear. His divine truths stand forever. *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away (Matthew 24:35).* The teaching of Jesus on sin is clear. Jesus said: Unless you repent, you too will all perish (cf. Luke 13:3). This is because the wages of sin is death (cf. Romans 6:23). If there is no recognition of sin, there will be no repentance. If there is no repentance, there is no seeking of forgiveness from God. If there is no seeking of forgiveness from God, there is no need of a saviour. This is the reason the Kingdom of Darkness makes great attempts to promote the false doctrine of relativism. In truth, the psalmist says: *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight...(Psalm 51:3-4).* Knowing the truth sets us free to seek forgiveness from God for all our wrong doings and to walk on the true path to our eternal, glorious inheritance.

**In Jesus is the love we need.** The human heart is made to receive and give love. Anyone deprived of love especially in the early formative years finds oneself not complete or whole. Such individuals may come from broken families. Unless such a heart is healed through love received, such individual may seek love in destructive ways. In the case of St Mary Magdalene, she tried to find it through numerous lovers. Unadulterated pure love is from God who through the action of the Holy Spirit, pours it into our hearts (cf. Romans 5:5). *Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days (Psalm 90:14).* Others around us are also channels of God's love for God has commanded us to love others as we love ourselves and to see Him in others. Through His life and Passion, Jesus has taught us how to love and that there is no greater love than laying down one's life for one's friends (cf. John 15:13). Jesus has done that for us.

**In Jesus is the life we seek.** *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10).* The saving action of Jesus continues mightily after His ascension into heaven. After defeating eternal death and Satan on our behalf on the Cross, the actions of Jesus continue mightily through His Church especially through His holy Sacraments. Through the priests acting on His behalf, grace and divine life are dispensed through the Sacraments to give us divine help to increase our holiness, overcome our personal sins, grow in sanctification and prepare ourselves fit for God's company in heaven. *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).*

**Conversation with Jesus** ~ Precious Lord, You teach us that the Truth will set us free and there is no salvation through anyone else. Purify all minds of false doctrine and false thinking; flood all minds with God's light, eternal divine truths, knowledge and holy wisdom. You are the unconditional love our hearts need. Purify our hearts of anything which opposes holy love and flood all hearts with holy and divine love. You are the eternal life our souls seek. Fill us with Your divine grace and life especially when we receive the holy Sacraments so that we have all we need for our sanctification and to walk in the way of salvation. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.