

## Scripture Reading

### A Reading from the Book of Prophet Jeremiah (*Jeremiah 29:11*)

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

### Reflection - God's will is the most secure, shortest and easiest route to our Father's Kingdom

**God's will is the summation of His love, His mercy and His Providence.** Every concerned parent has a well-conceived plan for the future of his/her child. It is always thoroughly thought-out with the sole objective of ensuring the welfare and security of the child especially when the parent is no longer around. Such a plan depends on human limitations such as extent of love and of resources of the parent. With God who makes Himself our Heavenly Father, there is no such limitation. His divine love is unconditional, it does not depend on how good we are. He loves us to the maximum, just as He loves Jesus, simply because He is love. His resources are infinite because God is almighty and there is nothing He cannot do. Unlike people, God has the power to fulfill all His promises and is totally trustworthy. God has a good plan, embedded in His will, for every one of us.

**Is there anything good that God will withhold from us?** *He Who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all, how will He not also give us everything else along with Him? (Romans 8:32).* If we have a deep insight into God's love, we would not be afraid of His will but would embrace and cling on to it! We would have no fear of what God's plan for us is but open our heart to discern carefully, and pray that we be given all the graces to carry out His desires to perfection so that at the last moment of our earthly life we can, with confidence, echo what Jesus said to the Heavenly Father: *"I glorified You on earth by accomplishing the work that You gave Me to do."* (*John 17:4*). Nothing glories God more than doing His will. God does not call us to climb the highest peak or dive to the deepest depth. He just calls us to be faithful, to carry out His will. His will for us is good in all aspects, it encompasses all the aspects outside our control. *If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him (Matthew 7:11).*

**God never promises that our lives will be free of trouble.** No servant is greater than the master. Our lives will have a share of Christ's sufferings which He endures for our sakes. However, Jesus promises that He will always be with us till the end of time (cf. *Matthew 28:20*), that the power of His grace will help us overcome victoriously any adversity (cf. *Romans 8:37*), that we will never be tempted beyond our strength but that God will always provide a way out for us (cf. *1 Corinthians 10:3*). The early Church has been graced with many martyrs. Though every one of them endured immense suffering, they died with great joy on their faces. Some of them could even see heaven before they closed their eyes for the last time. For whatever suffering that may come, God makes available all the graces needed to bear it patiently like Christ so that God can be glorified in us.

**Fulfilling God's will gives rest to our souls.** *Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For My yoke is easy, and My burden light (Matthew 11:28-30).* We sometimes take on impossible burdens and cause stress and anxieties to ourselves and loved ones because we are so focused on depending on ourselves in doing what we think is best for our future and that of loved ones who depend on us. Following our own desires without regard to what God plans for us, and blindly struggling with human limitations and weaknesses, invariably, leads to the feeling of over-burdened, restlessness, anxieties, dissatisfaction and lack of inner peace. For those who are over-burdened, Jesus invites us to take on His yoke - His plan for us, His will for us. A yoke is a wooden beam normally used to fasten the necks of two work animals to enable them to pull together on a load. We can be sure that when we put on Christ's yoke, He will be there beside us to help us with His graces to fulfill any work commissioned to us by God and to overcome any obstacles present. Unlike the world, God is not a slave driver.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, You said: "My food is to do the will of the One who sent Me and to finish His work" (*John 4:34*). Teach me to love God's will like You do. **God's will is the most secure, shortest and easiest route to our Father's Kingdom.** When I seek after my own desires I end up over-burdened, unfulfilled and restless because my soul is not created for this world but to find its joy, rest and fulfillment only in God. God's will is embedded in His teachings, His Word, His commandments. His commandments are not burdensome (cf. *1 John 5:3*) because they are based on love. May I live to do God's will so that I can attain the full potential God has created in me, and so glorify the Father together with You. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus present in all the tabernacles of the world be adored, loved, praised and glorified forever! Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. [www.twohearts.hk](http://www.twohearts.hk)