

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (John 14:15)

[Jesus said:] “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. “ The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Love for God is proven by obedience to His Commandments

God asks us to show our love for Him by obedience to His laws (cf. John 14:15). Love for God is not merely a sentiment but an unwavering commitment to live our lives in accordance to His will as expressed in His commandments and teachings. God commands us to love Him above all things, all people and ourselves (cf. Matthew 22:37, Luke 10:27, Mark 12:30-31). It is the only way to holiness and perfection that is needed to make us fit for a life of eternal happiness as children of the Most High. It is the route to eternal life with God. *I will never forget Your precepts; through them You give me life (Psalm 119:93).* Therefore, we are asked to love and treasure God’s laws and commandments above all earthly treasures. *The law of Your mouth is more precious to me than heaps of silver and gold (Psalm 119:72).* Adhering to God’s laws and commandments will bring us to the fullest potential God created us to be. *But the world must know that I love the Father and that I do just as the Father has commanded Me (John 14:31).* Jesus tells us that He carries out every command of the Father because He loves His Father. We are to do the same: to obey God’s commandments not out of fear but out of love for our Heavenly Father.

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). To our Blessed Mother Mary, obedience to God simply means saying “yes” to whatever He asks of her. At the Annunciation when Archangel Gabriel requested Mary on behalf of God to be the Mother of the Saviour, though Mary did not fully understand how this would come about, she understood fully the dire consequences of this happening. Clearly, she knew she would have to face the danger of being stoned to death for being an unmarried mother. Joseph, her betrothed, being a righteous man would leave her. But we observed the hesitation of Mary was only to hear the explanation of the angel how an unmarried woman like her would give birth to the Saviour. Mary was quick to say “yes”. Mary’s love for God is unconditional, and that makes her fearless in overcoming all obstacles even great danger to her own life.

Jesus made Himself nothing in order to be born in human flesh for our sakes (cf. Philippians 2:7). Jesus exists to do the will of the Heavenly Father. He teaches us to do the same. Thus, out of love for the Father, Jesus carries out every wish and command of the Father no matter how difficult. Jesus’ acts of Incarnation and Death on the Cross are the greatest, unsurpassed acts of charity in the whole of universe. Jesus voluntarily gave up all His divine privileges and endures all human sufferings in order to carry out the decree of the Father. Everything is done for the glory of the Father. In accordance to the Father’s will, Jesus takes on human flesh in order to make reparation and endure suffering caused by sins of the human flesh. He endures rejection so that His Father can give us His acceptance. On the Cross, He died in abject poverty so that we can be enriched eternally. *Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the One Who sent Me and to finish His work (John 4:34).*

Did you not know that I must be in My Father’s house? (Luke 2:49). When Jesus was twelve years old, the Holy Family went down to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Passover. After the celebration, Jesus stayed behind in the temple unknown to Mary and Joseph who later discovered it to their great anxiety. Though only twelve years old, the Boy Jesus had the courage to place His Father’s will above the feelings of His earthly parents. Boy Jesus harbours in His Sacred Heart a pure love for His earthly parents. How He must have suffered internally at the thought of causing such anxiety to Mary and Joseph. Despite that, Jesus unwaveringly adheres to the will of the Father. Doing God’s will will sometimes cause discomfort or suffering to those around us. Will we be discouraged by this or be strengthened by the grace Jesus won for us when He carried out God’s will no matter what it costs?

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, through Your time on earth, You have shown me clearly what it means to love God the Heavenly Father. Everything You do is for the glory of God the Father. Your food is the Heavenly Father’s will. You live to do God’s will, giving me a great example of what my life should be all about. You carried out the will of the Father even at great cost and suffering to Yourself. Teach me to understand all human suffering is temporary, and give me the grace to overcome my aversion to suffering, and replace this with an ardent love for God and His divine will which stands forever. Help me keep in sight the bright dawning glories of my eternity as I walk on the true narrow path of Your laws and commandments. Help me embrace Your laws and commandments as through my adherence to them, I demonstrate my love for God and receive eternal life. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.