

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew** (*Matthew 7:24-27*)

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the Mouth of God

**Know God and His promises through His Word.** God reveals Himself to us through His Word. The Incarnate Word is Jesus Christ. Jesus comes to reveal to us God, the Father. *No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him (Matthew 11:27).* Knowing God through His Word is a most reliable way. *Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent (John 17:3).* God's written Word (Scripture) has divine authority and is totally trustworthy. The more we read and meditate on Scripture the more we know about God, His divine love for everyone, God's promises especially Christ's promise of eternal life, and the glorious, eternal inheritance God has planned for those who prove themselves worthy to live with Him in heaven. *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away (Matthew 24:35).*

**Protect ourselves from demonic deception by knowing God's saving, eternal and absolute truths through His Word.** The godless world is inclined to indoctrinate our minds with falsehoods presented as good and worthy to strive for: a relentless obsession with material things, self-serving in the constant pursuit of sensual pleasures and sinful entertainment, a disdain for the spiritual and things of God, etc. The dark Prince of this World has done an excellent job in deceiving humankind. The rightful place of God is denied and instead, false gods of material wealth, self, pleasure, fame, power, etc. are promoted relentlessly in the minds of people through the media, through people and directly through suggestions implanted in the minds. Thus, sin is not recognized as sin but promoted as "human rights", "freedom", "alternative life styles", "choice", etc. Without the protection of God's saving truths, souls are vulnerable to his demonic deception.

**Avail of God's power to renew our minds and hearts and to form our conscience through His Word.** We need to be constantly renewed and strengthened in our spiritual life. Through prayer, adherence to Christ's teachings and His Word we are constantly being formed by the Holy Spirit to become our true self formed in truth and righteousness by the grace of the One who died for us. God's power is in His Word. By His spoken Word, the whole universe and creation came about. God's Word has the divine power to touch our physical bodies, our minds, hearts, soul and spirit in the way according to His divine will. *For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).* All of Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that we may be thoroughly be equipped for every good work (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**God's Word gives joy to our heart and light to our feet.** *When Your Words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear Your Name, Lord God Almighty (Jeremiah 15:16).* When the Word of God is assimilated in the heart, it gives joy because God desires only the highest good for His children. We are more concerned with the passing world but God is more concerned that we are using the passing world in order to prepare ourselves for the glorious world that never ends. God's Word bears His Good News through the salvation of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. It shows us how to walk humbly with Him at our side daily on the true path to the glorious inheritance that He planned for us.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, You say to us: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God (cf. Matthew 4:4). May I be like Mother Mary, always keeping Your Word in my heart and pondering over it. It is only in this way that I can live Your Word, speak Your Word, witness to Your Word and impart Your Word. Your Word is Spirit and life (cf. John 6:63). Sanctify me by Your Word, and through my adherence to Your Word and teachings, may I be protected from the deception of Satan, and never be diverted from the true path. May I rejoice in the blessedness of hearing Your Word, keeping it and witnessing to it. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.