

## Scripture Reading

### A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (*Matthew 4:4*)

He (Jesus) said in reply, "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'" The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Reflection – Protect ourselves from false ideologies by adhering to Christ's teachings and the infallible Word of God

**The Word of God is totally reliable to guide us in moral living.** *Your Word is truth (John 17:17). The grass withers, the flower wilts, but the Word of our God stands forever (Isaiah 40:8).* The Word of God is Truth and stands forever. The Word of God reflects the attributes of God Himself – God is truth (cf. John 14:6) and unchanging (cf. Hebrews 13:8). Jesus Christ Himself is the Word made flesh – the Incarnate Word. God Himself stands behind His Word. Hence, it is totally reliable to guide us in Christian moral living. Sacred Scripture, the written Word of God may be written by human writers but the real author is the Holy Spirit of God. *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).* Sacred Scripture can be used effectively to expose and correct falsehoods, false ideologies, false doctrine and anything contrary to God's truths as revealed to us through His Word.

**God's Word - the only reliable standard to adjudge a proclaimed truth; False ideologies are quickly exposed by the truths in God's Word.** There are now many false ideologies proclaimed as truth and a human right. Diabolical in origin and fueled by hedonism, narcissism and self-seeking brought to unprecedented heights, these false ideologies are being militantly promoted by a very strident minority who wishes to impose their falsities on the mainstream. One of the most dangerous false ideologies is the so-called gender ideology / orientation which seeks even to target children to blind them to the reality of the biological gender they are born with and instead to mislead them by presenting the fantasy of gender choice as a reality and a human right. Another dangerous false ideology is moral relativism and its derivatives such as Situation Ethics. Basically what these false ideologies are saying is that nothing is absolutely right or wrong but everything depends on the surrounding circumstances. These false ideologies are founded on the shifting sands of faulty human opinion and ego-centric thinking but presented as a truth. **Effectively, false ideologies condone sin and do not recognize sin as sin, thus, leading undiscerning souls to perdition.** It is difficult for a human mind not rooted in the truths of Christ to discern the falsity in false ideologies; however, when adjudged against God's truths in Scripture, their falsity is quickly exposed. Nothing can expose lies and falsehoods but only the truth. God's Word is Truth, and is an absolutely reliable guide to help us discern falsities and errors.

**God's Word - to discern errors and falsehoods in our own mind and thoughts.** *Indeed, the Word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart (Hebrew 4:12).* God's Word has divine power over all aspects of our whole being: body, heart, mind, soul and spirit. The divine power in God's Word is manifested powerfully when God spoke and creation came about. When in faith we pray and meditate on God's Word, God's quiet power is released in us to transform our hardened hearts, bad attitudes and stubborn minds. God's Word purifies us. *You are already pruned because of the Word that I spoke to you (John 15:3).* To remain in the truth of Christ, we need to adhere to Christ's teachings and Word of God.

**God's Word - to defeat evil and temptation.** When Jesus, during His fasting in the desert, was tempted by Satan in different situations, He proclaimed to Satan the Sacred Scripture appropriate to each situation, and quickly defeated Satan (cf. Matthew 4:1-11). The divine power in God's Word is released when God's Word is spoken boldly or proclaimed in faith. God created the whole world merely through His spoken Word. The Word of God is the sword of the Holy Spirit (cf. Ephesians 6:17) and is a powerful tool against evil and temptation as Jesus has amply demonstrated. The bold and repeated proclamation of the appropriate Sacred Scripture in a situation into which we want to bring God's intervention and authority is like a powerful prayer in God's own words.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, You are the Incarnate Word, the Word made flesh to dwell in our midst. Thank You for all Your divine teachings, Your Word, Sacred Scripture. Your unchanging truths are contained in Your teachings and Your Word. Help me to be true to Your Word and adhere to Your teachings always so that I remain in the truth of Your love. Help me to discern falsehoods, errors and diabolical deception in my thoughts and words and that of others. Give me the grace to defend my faith and to uphold the truths of Your teachings when the situation calls for it. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. [www.twohearts.hk](http://www.twohearts.hk)