

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (John 10:10-11)

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ True abundance is not what we own but what we are and worth

We are the children of God the Most High. God created us for His own high, divine purpose – to make us His beloved children by adoption through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. No one can ever merit such a high distinction of identity. It is solely through God's generosity and a pure gift through the merits of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. In our earthly life, we may assume several roles and identities in accordance with the responsibilities in our life. But in heaven, the permanent, eternal identity we will have is children of the Most High God. This is our birthright! God is our Father and we are His children. *The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children (Romans 8:15-16).* It is only through the Holy Spirit that we can call God "Abba, Father!"

We are worth the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, second Person of the Blessed Trinity. When our first parents Adam and Eve fell from God's grace in their rebellion in the Garden of Eden, God promised a Saviour to restore the human race to its original dignity. God's chosen Saviour is not a mere creature of God but none other than God's one and only begotten Son, Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ did not come to earth as a mighty conquering military ruler as many ancient Jews had expected but came into our midst quietly as a little human baby borne into very modest surroundings. Not by military power but through personal love proven by His own sufferings, pain and blood, Christ establishes God's Kingdom in the hearts of those who believe in and follow Him. *With Your Blood You purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation (Revelation 5:9).* Everyone is invited to accept Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour.

We are co-heirs with Jesus. *Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17).* St Paul in a vision was snatched up into the third heaven, and he said it was impossible to describe the things God has prepared for those who love Him. *What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived - the things God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9).* Jesus said to His disciples: *Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom (Luke 12:32).* A good parent knows how to secure the future of his/her child. By His infinite power and love, God can do much more than any good earthly parent!

We are precious to God. Before Christ ascended into heaven, He promised the sending of the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Truth that will guide us into all truth, teach us all things and remind us of everything Jesus has taught. The Holy Spirit is God's first instalment to us of what is to come into our inheritance in heaven. *He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).* Before His ascension, Christ also promised to be with us at all times (cf. Matthew 28:20). He fulfills this promise in a most wondrous way in His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist in which He is present in Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity – His total Person and Divinity. Christ is always present to us and never stopped thinking about us! *How precious to me are Your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand (Psalm 139:17-18).* Rejoice! We are stuck in the mind of God!

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, true abundance is not what we own on this passing earth. True abundance is what we are and worth in Your eyes. My life on this earth is a pilgrimage, a testing of my faith in and love for You. Open the eyes of all to see the greatness of our birthright and eternal inheritance. In the light of this divine truth, help all souls rise above all passing attractions of this world, and set our sights above. Remove all bondages due to greed, envy, consumerism, absorption with the material things of this world and anything which blinds us to our eternal inheritance. With my love, prayers and sufferings may I join You in Your mission in establishing God's Kingdom in all hearts so that every one of God's children will attain the eternal inheritance loving prepared in advance for them by our Father. Mary, Mother of Salvation and Protectress of our Faith, pray for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk