

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Luke (*Luke 9:26*)

Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – The Unity of Life - DO I have a United Identity

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” (Matthew 4:19). My most fundamental calling is to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ. It is the calling for which I was born. It is the calling by which I will live out my true purpose of my life - to love, serve and glorify the Lord with my life. It is the calling by which I will be led along the road of holy love and obedience to the Lord leading to the glorious inheritance that God has planned for me right from the beginning. It is a calling that will consume my entire life on this earth. It is my privilege to be called to be a true Christian. All other roles are secondary to this as my love and allegiance is to God first.

No one can serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). We are to be single-hearted in our love for and devotion to God. Thus, God commands us to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37). Having given us all His love including His Beloved Son Jesus, God demands our whole-hearted love for Him as this is the only way back to Him. My calling to be a true disciple of Christ must be lived out in every aspect of my life. Just as a person is faithful to his/her spouse, we the followers of Christ have to wear the badge of Christ in whatever roles that we find ourselves in during our earthly life. If I am in the teaching profession, then I am a Catholic teacher and not a teacher and a Catholic. If I am studying in school or university, then I am a Catholic student and not a student and a Catholic. If I am in the medical profession, then I am a Catholic doctor and not a doctor and a Catholic. If I legislate laws, then I am a Catholic legislator and not a legislator and a Catholic. It is clear Christ wants me to present a single face to the world.

Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels (Luke 9:26). It is hard to live a life of a true disciple of Jesus Christ in the confused world of today where the existence of God is denied or ignored, where many false gods such as materialism, money, power, pleasure, comfort, self-love, etc. are blindly paid allegiance to. It is a world that glorifies values that are contrary to our Christian values. It is a world that promotes sins as something desirable, as a right of choice and worth having. In such a situation we are tempted to fall in with the crowd, to compartmentalise God and to live our faith only when it is safe and convenient for us. We fear being mocked, scorned or rejected by those who do not share our faith: our family members, relatives, friends, clients. We quietly compromise our faith without giving it a second thought, forgetting that Jesus won salvation for us at great personal cost and suffering to Himself.

Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters in front of God His Father (cf. Matthew 12:48). In calling us His brothers and sisters, Jesus expects us to be brave and fight the good fight as a child of God would to make the Heavenly Father proud. All possible heavenly help is freely given to a heart that is open to the truth. We maybe weak sinners (fragile earthen vessels) but we possess the power of the Truth which is God. *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:7-8).* The power of the Holy Spirit can work within us and around us if it is not encumbered by our disorderly self-love, unholy fears and weak faith.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, thank You for calling me to be a true disciple of Yours. You chose me not I that chose You (cf. John 15:16). You called me by name even before I was born (cf. Jeremiah 1:5). I was born to give You glory. You have prepared good works for me to do (cf. Ephesians 2:10) that I may draw many brothers and sisters to You. You have anointed me with Your Holy Spirit as You commissioned me to be a fisher of people when I was baptised and confirmed through the Holy Sacraments of Your Church. You expect me to be courageous and fight against evil through holy love as a child of God would. All Your graces are available through Your Holy Spirit in whom I move, breathe and have my being. You are always with me as You have promised (cf. Matthew 28:20). Mary, my Mother of Salvation, help me imitate You and give me Your holy boldness that I may not be afraid to witness for Christ. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk