



Scripture nugget – Building my Spiritual House with gold, silver, precious stones

For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the One that is there, namely, Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire [itself] will test the quality of each one's work (1 Corinthians 3:9-13).

The one who sows for his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh (cf. Galatians 6:8). Our achievements on earth in the eyes of God can be likened to the type of spiritual house we build in our earthly lives. Will our spiritual house be constructed with gold, silver and precious stones on the foundation of Christ, that can withstand the testing of fire, or will it be made of wood, hay or straw that will be totally destroyed by fire? How we build depends much on how we are able to recognize and overcome our greatest enemy: our pride. Pride feeds other vices and can destroy a soul. It can blind a soul to the truth. Pride strokes our ego and tells us that the others are not as good as we are. Proud souls are quick to notice the faults of others but blind to their own shortcomings. The soul who cannot recognize its pride and resist it can be unwittingly led by it. Such souls may be enslaved to power, money, ego, beauty, popularity, creature comforts, carnal pleasures, etc. When Christ, the long-awaited Messiah came in the flesh, the people who should recognize Him for what He is: chief priests, scribes, religious leaders and religious elders, failed miserably to do so but instead colluded to kill Him! They were led by their self-importance, and the unsavory fruit of their pride is their inability to recognize the truth, jeopardizing their own souls.

But the one who sows for the spirit will reap eternal life from the spirit (cf. Galatians 6:8). Whom God chooses to be witnesses of Baby Jesus's birth at the stable and His presentation at the Temple is a very instructive lesson for us. For proclaiming the birth of Christ, the Saviour of the World, God chose the poor simple shepherds. God trusts them in their simplicity and humility to believe the message of the angels, and their courage to proclaim this good news to others around them. None of the religious hierarchy was chosen for this important task. For witnesses at the presentation of Baby Jesus at the Temple, God chose Simeon and Anna, both of whom were unimportant elderly people but whose lives were led by the Holy Spirit and were greatly pleasing to God. They lived unselfishly for God and offered sincere prayers and sacrifices in preparation for the coming Messiah. They had no opportunity to witness the signs and wonders of the adult Christ unlike the religious elders but nonetheless could recognize the Messiah in the Infant, being led by the Spirit.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, in heaven, I will be rewarded according to what I did on earth. Your Commandments teach me the way to walk in Your footsteps. Purify me of all errors and iniquities, and flood me with Your Holy Spirit. Inspire me to live my earthly life pleasing not myself but You. Let my every thought, word and deed be motivated by holy love in every present moment which I consecrate to You. Thus, I involve You in my every decision. Grant that my spiritual house be one of gold, silver and precious stones which can withstand the testing of fire and gives glory to God. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.