



## **Scripture nugget - Discernment is a treasured, high gift of God**

*At that time Jesus said in reply: I give praise to You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for though You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned You have revealed them to the childlike (Matthew 11:25).*

**When Jesus came in the flesh amongst man, most of the elite Jewish religious hierarchy could not recognize the Messiah, the only Begotten Son of the Most High.** Though the chief priests, the scribes and the religious leaders were filled with religious schooling, they failed to recognize the long-awaited Messiah when He came in their midst. Except for Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin and a secret follower of Christ, members of the Jewish religious hierarchy were more intent on killing Jesus than paying Him the homage that is due to the only Begotten Son of God! It was clear what their motives were in regards to Christ. Even Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor knew they were driven by envy of Christ. They led the people in demanding the death sentence for Christ. They trumped up many false charges against Him such as blasphemy when Christ identified Himself as Son of God. Even when Christ lay dying on the Cross, they did not stop taunting Him, asking Him to prove Himself by coming down from the Cross!

**Jesus was recognized as the Messiah by those who loved God sincerely and humbly.** God chose two unknown, insignificant persons to be witnesses at the consecration ceremony of Baby Jesus at the Jerusalem Temple: Simeon and elderly widow, Anna. Simeon, a righteous and devout man, awaiting the coming of the Messiah, was led by the Holy Spirit (cf. Luke 2:25). *It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord (Luke 2:26).* Anna was a prophetess and a widow for much of her long life. She never left the Temple but worshipped night and day with fasting and prayers (cf. Luke 2:37). At the presentation of Baby Jesus in the Temple, both came forward acknowledging the Messiah, giving homage and thanks to God. Both were led by the Holy Spirit Who shed His light of truth on them, and testified to their meek spirits that Baby Jesus was the Messiah they were praying and seeking for. Thus, they were led interiorly and needed no introduction from the Baby's parents. The Holy Spirit found in Simeon and Anna willing spirits because their hearts were filled with the desire to seek God and His will. Their hearts were not burdened by the spiritual pride which blinded the Jewish religious leaders.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, when You first came in the flesh, You were recognized only by those who were humble of heart. Purify my heart of all hidden pride and self-righteousness, and teach me surrender my mind, my heart and my soul to You in complete trust so that I can walk on the true path. Purify me of all past sins so that my soul is ready to receive the gift of discernment through the power of the Holy Spirit. Human opinion is subjective because human consciences are poorly formed and informed in the truths of God. Discernment is not human opinion but a revelation of the truth by the light of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. This gift is greatly needed in these difficult times when good is disdained as bad, evil dressed up to look virtuous, false ideologies gain popularity and acceptance, and people are not inclined to seek the truth but to be politically correct. Mary, Mother of Salvation, intercede for me for this great gift of discernment for which I greatly desire. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.