



Scripture nugget – Recognizing and demolishing our false gods

Make no mistake: God is not mocked, for a person will reap only what he sows, because the one who sows for his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows for the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up (Galatians 6:7-9).

Weak, rootless faith and lack of knowledge of our faith open the door to temptation and false gods. There are multitude of souls that fall into the categories represented by the seeds that fall on the path and the seeds that fall among rocks in the Parable of the Sower (cf. Matthew 13:1-23). Those seeds, representing the Word of God, that fall on the path are quickly eaten by the birds representing Satan because the souls that receive it do not take the effort to understand their faith. Those souls with seeds falling among rocks quickly lose their rootless faith in the face of any adversity. These souls may have lots of time to indulge in other subjects of their interest but know very little of Scripture. Sadly, the faith of these souls is at the most a sentimentality. Their lives do not seem any different from that of a non-believer. What little faith they have can be easily lost over time. Lacking in knowledge, conviction and depth in their Christian faith, they are susceptible to temptations by Satan who targets their weaknesses and raises up false idols in their lives such as unbridled pride, anger, jealousy, unforgiveness, inordinate pleasure-seeking, money and wealth, power, reputation, popularity, selfish ambition, etc. Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, self-seeking to please oneself, as the over-riding focus, takes over due to fallen human nature.

Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (cf. Proverbs 9:10). Godly wisdom is a high gift of the Holy Spirit and not given freely to every soul. Wisdom is the ability to see things and situations from the perspective of holy love, eternal value of earthly things and the eyes of God. It is diametrically opposed to earthly wisdom which attaches value to earthly wealth and human acclaim. Thus, we need guidance from the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth Who with His light of truth helps us discern how we should live our lives, and the things we should work for in order to walk on the true path of the Lord. We need to pray daily for wisdom, humility and reverence for the Lord so that we have the right priorities in our life in the eyes of God. God favors the humble and gives them wisdom (cf. Matthew 11:25). If we commit to place God first in our lives by our filial obedience to His commandments, and are not afraid to devote our time and resources to serve God and others in His Name, our lesser priorities will fall into place in their correct order, false gods will not have any place in our lives, and our needs will be taken care of (cf. Matthew 6:33).

Conversation with Jesus. Precious Lord, to be Your true disciple I must denounce myself, pick up my cross daily and follow You (cf. Matthew 16:24). Let Your Spirit shine His light into every dark area of my life and help me recognize the false idols in my life. By Your Passion, give me the strength to denounce them: any disorderly and inordinate preoccupation with self, or other people or passing things of this world. Forgive me my sins and liberate me from all sinful bondages. Lead me by Your Holy Spirit and open the eyes of my faith to savour You and Your goodness so that I will not seek out passing things that consume my time and energy but which have no real value for my eternal welfare or that of others. Give me wisdom, humility and holy reverence for You. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.