



Scripture nugget – Standing firm on our faith amidst unprecedented scandals

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through Him Who loved us (Romans 8:35-37).

Scandals will inevitably happen but woe to the one who causes other souls to stumble (cf. Luke 17:1-2). As our salvation is won at great price by the precious Blood of our Lord, any temptation to sin which endangers our salvation is viewed very seriously by God. Severe divine punishment awaits those who willfully bring other souls into sin through temptation (cf. Luke 17:2). Thus, we need to be very vigilant in what we say, do, live our lives so that we may never be in any way a bad example to others, tempting them to sin, and undermining their precious faith in Christ. Recent years witnessed unprecedented scandals in the holy Church by souls who, by their positions of authority, should be good examples in Christian faith to the faithful, testing our faith grievously. However, we can take comfort from what St Paul said in prophesy to Timothy: *For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths (2 Timothy 4:3-4).* Biblical prophecies are being fulfilled, and Word of God is proven true again and again.

In Christ we can overcome all scandals and temptations (cf. Romans 8:37). In Christ we are given all the graces we need to withstand scandals and temptations of whatsoever kind: anguish, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or the sword (cf. Romans 8:35). Christ and divine doctrine remain unchanged even if humankind keeps diverting from the true path. *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away (Matthew 24:35).* We keep the eyes of our faith fixed on Christ Who alone is the author and perfecter of our faith (cf. Hebrews 12:2). We keep focused on Christ, His teachings and His life on earth to inspire us, and not to let the errant behaviour of human leaders distract us. The spirit of the world is blowing strongly. It is time we decide within ourselves how important our faith in Christ is. We need to constantly examine our priorities in a world that relentlessly claim our time for activities that have no bearing on our eternal salvation. Indeed, as St Paul says: we need to tremble and work at our salvation (cf. Philippians 2:12). We need to pray with our heart in order to grow in holiness. We need to study, meditate and live God's Word in order to develop depth and conviction in our faith, firm purpose and direction in our lives, deeper discernment of the eternal truths and our personal encounter and relationship with Christ.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, we are living in a time when many souls are yielding to the spirit of the world. Protect me from error, deception and scandal. Help me remain true to my faith in You by firm allegiance to Your commandments, and focusing on You at all times to be my model in faith. Keep my mind true, pure and unjudgemental, my heart humble and kind, and my soul in the state of grace through the Sacraments, by praying with my heart with true sorrow for my sins, and keeping and living God's Word, knowing that with Your grace I can overcome any temptation. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.