

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to John (John 16:13-15)

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from Me what He will make known to you. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Ask the Lord for the gift of Discernment

We live in a world full of confusion and error. Financial systems are fragile and in disarray. Countries are in conflict within themselves and with neighbours. The spirit of rebellion is very much alive and in many places on earth. Climatic patterns are abnormal with record-breaking extremities in many countries. The existence of God and all that He stands for is repudiated in many places as countries especially in the west deliberately remove acknowledgement of God from public arena. Man is largely indifferent to God, and the rightful dominion God has over the human hearts He created no longer prevails. As God is rejected, man is left to his own devices, opening the way for false gods, false doctrine and compromise of the Truth.

The truth of the difference between good and evil. Once God is rejected and excluded from human lives, the first casualty is truth. Truth is compromised. Truth is God (cf. John 14:6) and all that He stands for (cf. John 17:17, Ps 119:160). Once the existence of God is denied, then the truth of existence of sin is swept under the carpet as the difference between good and evil becomes a matter of personal opinion and flavor of the day. Personal opinion of people with big titles and high authority wield strong influence over the masses as divine authority is jettisoned. Leaders with compromised conscience operating out of preservation of self-interest, with no real concern for the welfare of the people lead the way to legalise sins under the guise of advocate of freedom of choice. Thus, falsehoods are presented as truths, and sins as something good and worth having.

Only the truth will set us free from our sins. *To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31-32). Jesus imparts to us the truth through His teachings. Without accepting and practising the teachings of Jesus, we will not understand what divine truths are: the truth about the existence of God, His attributes, His ways, His love for us, the existence of sin, existence of hell and heaven, His salvation, the eternal inheritance He planned for us and how to attain it by living a life in His righteousness... God's truths will free us from slavery to sin, point out the road in which we must walk in order to reach the glorious eternity that God has promised to each of His children who love Him and are loyal to Him (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9, John 14:2).

The Holy Spirit will lead us into the truth (cf. John 16:3). Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised the coming of the Holy Spirit. He knows the disciples will be weak and will forget His teachings under the pressure of persecution from those around them. The Holy Spirit will come to strengthen internally the disciples, and convict their hearts and conscience in the truth. Thus, the Holy Spirit will help the disciples to discern the difference between good and evil, the passing things of earth and the eternal things of God, truths and falsehoods even when the latter is dressed up to look like truths. The Holy Spirit will give the strength to the disciples not only to know and be convicted in the truth and live it, but also to proclaim it publicly and to stand by it no matter what the human opinion is.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You are Eternal Truth. Your Truth stands forever irrespective of whether it is believed in or not. Not believing in the Truth does not make it less the truth but put the soul of the unbeliever into a compromised state, for outside of Your truth leads to sin. All sins result from compromise to Your teachings and truth. We live today in a world where error and confusion abound. Bestow on me, Lord, the gift of discernment, a gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgive me all the sins in my soul, and wash my heart in Your humility so that Your Spirit can come in a fuller measure into my soul and impart His gift of discernment. Discernment is not human opinion. It is a revelation of the truth by the Holy Spirit. Help me discern truth from falsehoods and live a life in Your righteousness. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.