

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the First Letter of St Peter (1 Peter 4:10-11)

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection - God does not require us to do great things but just to do everything for sake of Him

We have to learn God's way of doing things. When Jesus came into our world in the flesh, He shows us how to please God the Father. Though everything is created for Jesus, and the world belongs to Him, yet when He came into the world, He was born in a lowly stable into a poor family. The announcers of the good news of His birth were simple shepherds. His way of redemption of the world was not an act of glory capturing the admiration of the world but by dying a painful and bloody death on the Cross. Jesus pleases and glorifies His Father not by bringing about stupendous miracles but by being obedient to the Father in carrying out His divine will perfectly. Thus, Jesus, the King of kings and the Lord of lords subjected Himself to the authority of His earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, and let Himself be subjected to the cruel and humiliating crucifixion on the Cross. In response to all that Jesus was doing, God the Father said: "This is My Son, My Beloved, with Whom I am well pleased." (2 Peter 1:17).

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). God's greatest saints are not prominent people who were looked up to and admired by people of their time. Joseph and Mary are the two persons to whom God entrusted His precious Son Jesus. They are great saints in God's eyes. However, what they did in their lives were nothing extraordinary except for the fact that everything was done in fidelity to God's will in a way that only God knows. Joseph was a simple carpenter. Mary was a housewife. They were a poor family yet they rendered God so much glory. Thus, it is not really important what situation God puts us in our life but, rather it is how we live our life that really matters to God. What gives eternal value to our actions is not the approval, admiration of or recognition by people but, rather the purity of our intention and our fidelity to God's will which will motivate us to do everything out of love for God.

Faithfulness in little things opens us to the grace to be faithful in big things. *The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones (Luke 16:10).* It is important that we attend even to the small things with fidelity to God's will, as this faithfulness, though it may seem so unimportant, will give us the grace to be faithful in greater things. Those who do not bother to be faithful in small matters will find it extremely difficult to be faithful in big matters. The way we deal even with small matters is important as the Lord is more interested in our fidelity than in the scale of the matter, and grace is given, when faithfulness in small things is shown, to be faithful in greater things. As they say: practice makes perfect.

Doing everything for the glory of God elevates our spirit and enhances the purpose of our lives. God commands us to love Him above all else with all our hearts, minds, strength and soul. However, our weak human nature is inclined to do everything for self. This invariably leads to dissatisfaction, emptiness and dullness of the spirit. However, if we firmly commit ourselves at the beginning of the day to do everything simply for the glory of God, little miracles begin to happen. The dullness and drudgery of the task are gone. Difficult tasks become easier. We are filled with a high sense of purpose even in small things. Our spirit is joyful in the knowledge that it is only God Whom we are trying to please. To do so, we have to strive unceasingly to live in God's constant presence. We avoid being too grossed in the task but in full consciousness lift up our mind frequently to the Lord through silent, short ejaculatory prayers coming straight from a simple heart that strives to offer Him everything.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, I surrender to You all my disorderly self-love, the need to seek affirmation and approval of others, the self-seeking and all the insecurity in my heart. Give me the patience to keep surrendering to You these things that hold my heart till the day when these things die in me and new growth results. To be truly great, one has to be the servant of all as You have demonstrated by Your life and death on the Cross when You died for everyone. Put into my heart a deep and abiding love for You so that I can see You and serve You in others. Help me to do everything in my life simply out of love for You and for the glory of our most loveable Heavenly Father. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.