

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (John 14:21)

Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love them and show Myself to them. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – The more we desire to do God's will, the more He reveals Himself to us, the more we feel His reassuring Presence

Doing God's will every day is the easiest way to attain eternal life. Every parent, even the worst, tries one's best to give good guidance to one's child. This is even more so for God Who loves each and every one of His human children with the same divine love He has for His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. God's love for each of His children is expressed in His divine will for each of us. God's divine will is simply His love, His providence, His mercy all in one. We must have firm conviction within ourselves that God's will is the best possible plan for us if we are to decide firmly to do His will. With no firm intention, strong conviction or ardent desire, there is no real target or discipline or standard, only mediocrity.

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work (John 4:34). Jesus teaches us that the most important thing in our life is to do the will of God. The Jews found that Jesus teaches with great authority, that He is very different from the other Jewish teachers of the Law. This is not surprising given the love with which He teaches and the way He backs up His divine teaching with the testament of His own life: a life of selfless sacrifice and obedience to the Father unto death for the welfare of others. Jesus shows us clearly the way to walk: *Then He said to them all: "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me (Luke 9:23).*

The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love them and show Myself to them (John 14:21). Jesus teaches clearly that to love Him is to abide by His commandments and teachings. A promise of Jesus to those who strive to do His will is that He will reveal Himself to them. They will feel His reassuring presence and be given divine wisdom to discern the hand of God working in their lives. Despite having much, people feel emptiness in their hearts because they cannot feel the presence of God. Weighed down by our sinfulness and wilfulness, many a times we are not able to discern how God is actively working in our lives to bring what He started to its fruitful end (cf. Philippians 1:6), amidst trials and testing along the way.

To the one who loves Him and does His will, Jesus reveals His love (cf. John 15:9-11). Jesus tells us He loves us in the way His Father loves Him! He tells us this so that our joy may be complete in this wondrous knowledge of the truth. We sin because of our disorderly self-love and pride which weaken us. When a human heart is filled with self-love and pride, such a soul feels a deep hunger. Such a hunger can be directed at seeking love from other people or in created things, often at the detriment of the soul. In heaven, when we have perfect knowledge of God's love, sin is no longer relevant. We will understand what divine love is, we will feel it in every fibre of our being, we will be immersed in it. To those who truly love Him, Jesus reveals an insight of His divine love. Having this precious insight, the saints who are ordinary people with extraordinary love for God, demonstrated that the sky is the limit for what we can do for God.

The one who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do what pleases Him (John 8:29). When we do what pleases God, He is always very near to us. His blessings cover us, we are in the protective shadow of His wings. No matter how difficult the situation, we will never feel overwhelmed because we have God's peace and calm, and His strength to overcome any temptation or suffering. When we have the reassuring presence of God near to us, what do we fear? If God is for and with us, do we need to fear anyone who is against us?

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, I render You more glory in doing Your will than going around doing all the good deeds in the world. By Your own divine power, You can accomplish any good deed You desire in the world (cf. Acts 17:25) but my doing Your will is the best proof of my love for You. Your will is holy love in the present moment. It is the roadmap to attain the glorious eternal inheritance You have prepared for me. Your life is a living testament of Your great love for the Father's will. Give me Your love for the Father's will so that I too can render our Father glory, and so have a share of Your endless joy and blessedness that is reserved only for those who love God. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.