

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 7:21)

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ The most wholesome shortcut to our true self

Our need to be happy. God wants us to be truly happy (1 Thessalonians 5:16) and to have a good reason to be so. Which good parent will not go way out to ensure her/his child's happiness? Irrespective of what situation we are born into, each person is created out of God's love to be a member of His family (cf. Ephesians 1:5) with a definite, divine plan to give each a future and hope (cf. Jeremiah 29:11). By walking on the true path, each child of God will come into his/her eternal inheritance – an eternal life of lasting joy and peace. Through Scripture, God teaches us that our happiness is not to be derived from things or people but in Him. Rejoice in the Lord! Outside of Him there is no peace or happiness because He is the source of true peace and happiness. God's promise: *Seek first the Kingdom of God then all things you need will be given to you (Matthew 6:33).*

Our need to be loved and to love. God created the human heart out of love to share His love and to make a similar return of His love. God demonstrated His love for us by loving us while we are still sinners, and sending Jesus, His only Son as expiation for our sins. Jesus teaches us that there is no higher love than in dying for another person (cf. Matthew 15:13). This is what Jesus has done for us on the Cross of Calvary when He reclaimed for us the eternal inheritance we lost through our sins. God says to us through Prophet Jeremiah: *I have loved you with an everlasting love* (cf. Jeremiah 31:3). God also shows His love for us through those around us. We are precious to God (cf. Isaiah 43:4), and Jesus promises that He is and will always be with us (cf. Matthew 28:20).

Our search for Truth and freedom. In this world which embraces relativism that nothing is absolutely good or evil and which does not recognize sin, Jesus comes to reveal the absolute truth. He is the absolute, eternal, unchanging Truth (cf. John 14:6). He is the Truth that withstands the passage of time and that stands unchanged whether or not people believe in Him. Many people cannot accept the teachings of Jesus because it would mean changing for the better which is painful. But Jesus teaches us that only the Truth will set us free (cf. John 8:32). What kind of freedom? It is freedom of the highest level that only God can give. It is spiritual freedom from sin, eternal death and hell. It is the highest freedom which empowers us to become what God made us to be: happy, holy and blameless in His sight (cf. Ephesians 1:4).

Our search for meaning in life and fulfilment. We have divine purpose for our lives because we existed through the will of God. God in His generosity and good pleasure made us members of His family and co-heirs with Jesus Christ! (cf. Romans 8:17). Through Baptism, we share in Christ's mission to establish God's reign in the hearts of all His children. We are made priests, prophets and kings through our Baptism (CCC #1241). In whatever life situation we are in, we have a unique role to play in God's Kingdom. *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).* At the highest level, we are truly fulfilled when we are filled with the fullness of God. For that, we need to grasp how wide, long, high and deep Christ's love for us is (cf. Ephesians 3:18-19). We will be truly fulfilled when we finally understand how much we are loved by God through Jesus Christ.

Conversation with Christ

Precious Lord, the psalmist wrote: *My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God (Psalm 84:2).* Yes, I was made solely for You. My heart will remain restless till it finally rests in You. You said: If you love Me, keep my commandments (John 14:15). Encapsulated in Your commandments is Your loving, divine will. Your will is a roadmap to my true self which You have created me to be. *The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple (Psalm 19:7).* Your laws are not strange to me. They are naturally written in my heart (cf. Romans 2:15). Bestow upon me and all sinners all the graces that we need to fulfill Your will in the present moment, and thus be on the road to our true self: happy, holy and blameless in Your sight. Mary, Mother of Salvation and Protectress of our Faith, pray for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.