

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Luke (*Luke 21:34-36*)

Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Walking into my Destiny – Holiness is my Vocation

Temptations of an earthly life – the seeking of earthly pleasures and riches or the falling into the anxieties of life. The Lord warns us that we are not of this world (cf. John 17:14). We are to focus on God and His Kingdom. This world tempts us in two ways: the unending and selfish seeking of gratification of the senses and of earthly riches as life's purpose or deceiving us into thinking that we have been left alone to manage life on our own devices. In both temptations, the focus is on the earthly life and what it has to offer – the one-dimensional attractive and pleasurable side, and the other one-dimensional fearful, frightening side. In both cases, godlessness is the crux of the problem. In the first case, the void left by godlessness is attempted to be filled by the endless seeking of self-gratification. In the second, godlessness has resulted in undue anxiety and insecurity.

Destined to be God's Child. Walking into my destiny. From the beginning God made me to be a child of His through Jesus Christ (cf. Ephesians 1:5) and accordingly has called me to holiness as a way of life (cf. Matthew 5:48). Being called and chosen, life then becomes a pilgrimage towards holiness, and a testing ground for my faith. My faith in and love for God are constantly being purified and refined by sufferings and trials as God disciplines and chastises those whom He loves (cf. Hebrews 12:6).

My true and proper worship – the offer of my body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God (cf. Romans 12:1). God is not really interested in my earthly success. What God wants most from me is a loving heart that loves Him whole-heartedly and above all else, and then loving others as I love myself. Where the heart is, the body and soul will follow. Jesus Christ shows the way. Out of the burning love of His Sacred Heart, Jesus consented to be borne incarnate as a human baby and used His earthly life to accomplish the Divine Will of His Heavenly Father. His earthly life and death on the Cross become a holy and living sacrifice to the Father for the salvation of all people.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1Thessalonians 5:16-18). Holiness is to be whole-heartedly pursued. It is our vocation. St. Paul exhorts us to be more committed than sports athletes who undergo strict training for a crown that will not last (cf. 1 Corinthians 9:25). Our prize is a crown that will last forever: God Himself! Surely such a prize deserves an all-out effort of mind, heart, body and soul! Let not the comment of the Lord that children of light are not as shrewd as children of this world (cf. Luke 16:8) in the parable of the dishonest steward apply to me!

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, out of Your infinite love and mercy, You called me out of nothing to live a life of holiness in preparation for Your Kingdom. I am not to allow this passing world to distract me. I need to protect my heart from its powerful attractions. I consecrate my heart to You through the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that it may always remain Your property and be impervious to all the allurements of this world. Through this consecration, I hope that You will give me all the graces I need to love You sincerely with my whole heart. May You be first in my life always. Blessed Mother Mary, Protectress of the Faith, please form my heart for Jesus only. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.