

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to John (John 8:31-32)

The truth will set you free

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." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Take up the Sword of the Holy Spirit

Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. (John 17:17). God feeds His children spiritually from the table of the Eucharist and from the table of His Word. To follow in the footsteps of Christ and to live by His law and precepts, we need to focus on the face of Christ, the Eternal Word. To do that, our lives need to revolve around the Eucharist and Holy Scripture. If we do not read the Word of God, how can we claim to know the mind of Christ, the Incarnate Word and to know Him personally? How can we live by God's law and precepts without reading, meditating and putting into practice His Word?

For the word of God is living and active (Hebrews 4:12). Some detractors of our faith would like to tell us that the Bible is outdated. But God tells us otherwise. He tells us that the Word of God is living and active. The power of God's words was manifested when God spoke and the world was created! The power of God's Word was also manifested when Jesus quoted Scripture to overcome temptation during His forty days of fasting in the desert. St. Paul tells us that the sword of the Holy Spirit is the Word of God (cf. Ephesians 6:17). It is part of the full armour of God which will protect us from all our enemies so that we can take our stand against the devil's schemes, for our enemies are not human beings but the devil and his evil spirits (cf. Ephesians 6:11-12).

..My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge (cf. Hosea 4:6). When we do not have a solid knowledge of our faith, we can easily lose our faith and be led astray by false doctrine. God warns us precisely of this. ***But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. (Matthew 7:26-27).*** When we do not build our faith upon the solid foundation of God's Word by faithfully reading and meditating His Word and putting them into practice in our daily living, our faith is at best a house built on sand. We may remain firm in faith when the going is smooth. However, when we are put to real testing and severe persecution, our faith will crumble like a house built on sand when the storm and hurricane come.

Conversation with the Lord

Precious Lord, thank You for the gift of Sacred Scripture. You long to speak to me through Your Word. Your Word is truth and eternal. It is sanctifying. You sanctified Your apostles by the words You spoke to them. Your Word is also healing to me (cf. Proverbs 4:22). Indeed, You have given me a wondrous gift. Give me the grace of a great love for Sacred Scripture. For I know that through it I can meet You personally. Through putting Your Word into practice in my life, help me to grow in faith, wisdom and a deeper understanding of Your love for me. Help me to build my faith not on shifting sand but on the solid foundation of Your Word. Mother Mary, Protectress of the faith, come to my aid always. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.