

# 2018 October

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Holy Cross Seminary, Pune, India.

Please send your comments and suggestions to:

[cscseminary@gmail.com](mailto:cscseminary@gmail.com)

Readings: Job 1: 6 – 22; Lk 9: 46 -50

Man only reaches true manhood when he is always conscious that he is the creature and that God is creator and that without God, he can do nothing. This realization is given to or acquired by man who is meek/humble. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth” (Mt 5:5). Meek/humble is the person, who is angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time, who realizes his own ignorance and weakness, and who has every instinct, impulse and passion under control. Such persons are masters of themselves but ultimately controlled by God and there are many chances to be great on the earth. Jesus rightly compares them with children who influence all of us in various ways in our lives. Children get angry when somebody disturbs them in whatever they do. They do not get angry when they are not disturbed. They are like kings and feel great in whatever they do. They do not seek others approval to be great but sometimes seek parental attention. When somebody disturbs them and not allow them to do what they like to do, they fight all they can, but when they realize that they cannot fight back they accept their weaknesses by crying and asking help from their parents to get whatever they like or to do whatever they like. Gospel reading invites me to get angry at right time especially when I am disturbed by evil thoughts, ideas and actions. If I run away from these thoughts and ideas, it is possible that they may not leave me until I fight and defeat them. If I cannot defeat them with my own ability, I should cry like a child accepting my weakness and ask help from God, almighty Father, who is ever ready to fight on my behalf and sure to defeat the evil in me and outside.

*Peter Paul csc*

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Readings: Ex 23:20-23; Mt 18:1-5, 10

Today the church celebrates the feast of Guardian angels. The liturgy of the word invites us to reflect upon the importance of guardian angels in our life. We see in the first reading how God sends his angels to guard the people of Israel, if they obey the Lord. When I was reflecting upon this feast I recalled my life, how many times the guardian angels were with me to protect me. Very often we think Guardian angel means having two wings, but in my real life I have experienced these angels through my parents, superiors, friends and children. This feast also invites me to be a guardian for all those who go away from the lord, because of their sinful life.

The gospel reading Jesus invites me to change my way of life and become like little children to inherit the kingdom of God. As I was reflecting upon this passage a thought came to my mind, how can a grown person become like a little child. The passage invites me to have attitude of childlike simplicity, humility, openness, and to be innocent like a child, in order to inherit the kingdom of God.

*Boneventure Lobo csc*

Readings: Job 9: 1-12, 14-16; Lk 9: 57-62

Through the readings of today we are called to practice simplicity and humility to become worthy disciples of Jesus. Through the gospel reading our Lord Jesus teaches us the way how to live our life as his disciples by saying, “No one who sets a hand to the plough and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God”(Lk 9:62). The church today suffers by its own clergymen’s unfaithfulness to their commitment because we often promise many things but forget to practice them devotedly. “I will follow you, wherever you go” is the sentence repeatedly used by the followers of Jesus and many a times ours too. Living religious life is not at all easy; we can be easily taken by the worldly things. But when we say ‘Yes’ to the Lord, then we need to stand by our ‘Yes’ forever. Our mother church does need religious and priests. Therefore, today let us ask ourselves and check our conscience and see how far we are faithful to our religious life. If we are ashamed of our failures in living this life, let us ask the Lord to strengthen us to be faithful to it.

*Manu Praveen csc*

Readings: Job 19: 21-27; Lk 10: 1-12

The first reading from the book of Job speaks about kindness and trust. We must trust God even in times of sorrow and affliction like Job in today's first reading. Job chapter 19 is the fifth response of Job to one of his friends. He requests his friend to be kind to him because he is already in pathetic condition. The second thing that Job does in the reading is that he believes that his God is a Redeemer and he wishes to meet him face to face.

The gospel reading according to St. Luke narrates Jesus sending his 72 disciples where he himself wished to go. Of all the advice about what to take and what not to take, he prepares them with two important messages to the people they go to. If they enter a house first say, 'Peace to this house.' This is their first message to the householders. If they enter a town the second message is to eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them 'the kingdom of God has come near you.'

*Balraj K csc*

Readings: Job 38: 1, 12-21, 40: 3-5; Lk 10: 13-16

In today's reading we see Jesus is upset with Chorazin, Berhsaida and Carpenaum for their stubbornness and refusal to listen to Jesus' call to repentance. These three communities received so much grace and blessing from the Lord through preaching and miracles but still fail to understand Jesus' call to repent and to change from their sinfulness and being stubborn. To comprehend God we need to listen to him carefully with our whole being. Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum refused to listen to him with all their hearts minds and souls. Jesus warns them that if they continue to be stubborn and refuse to listen to his call to repentance, they will be judged more severely than Tyre and Sidon. Today Jesus also warns us that if we do not listen to him who is the author of our life and act according to his will, we will have to get ready to face the consequences that await us on the day of judgment. We must remember that failing or refusing to listen to the voice of God is failing or refusing to accept and believe in him who is the source of everything. As a result, our lives become meaningless and discontented. Whenever we commit sin, Jesus speaks to us and calls us continuously every minute of the day to change our ways for the better. But do we listen to the inner voice of God and obey his word? To whom do we listen and obey most? Is it God or the World? God has given us two ears and one mouth so that we should listen more than we speak. God invites us to listen to his voice speaking to us every day, which is the word of life, and to practice it in our day-to-day life. Let us keep in mind the words of Jesus "Whoever listens to you listens to me and whoever rejects you rejects me and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

*Vicky L Gayang csc*

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Readings: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Lk 10:17-24

As religious, we may not have tangible experience of God in our lives to share to the people, but the very fact that we are called to be missionaries as religious, is a profound privilege for each one. In this privilege, we participate in sharing the love of God and being part of that love by making commitment to the Lord, our master. In this way, we are called to be a blessing for others and bring comfort by an act of love, especially to those who are mentally and emotionally disturbed. The gospel of today clearly highlights the joy of the 72 disciples after their return for having accomplished the task given by Jesus. Our commitment to the Lord demands so much in our daily life and from time to time, and we are invited to experience that same joy when we move out as religious which is a challenge for us. Most importantly, one has to realize that every good act we perform for our neighbors should be an expression of our love for God. I personally believe that our success in our mission depends not on our abilities and talents, but it springs out from the grace of God and through our intimate relationship with Jesus. Therefore, one has to be faithful and always remain close to Jesus. As Jesus becomes a blessing in our life, may we also become a real blessing and an inspiration for everyone without counting the cost.

*Stephen Langsianmunga csc*

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Readings: Gen 2: 18-24; Heb 2: 9-11; Mk 10: 2-6

We are in the 27th Sunday of the ordinary time. The liturgy of the word draws our attention to a life of complete faithfulness. In the first reading we see God created man and woman in his image that they may be one, which is the foundation of the sacrament of marriage in complete faithfulness. The same is emphasized in the gospel of Mark when Jesus is questioned about divorce and he responds with the reference to the book of Genesis that man and woman be united as one body as God willed. Further Jesus tells us that going against the will of God is sin of adultery. Hence we are called to be faithful to our commitments and not separate what God has united and intended, for God is faithful and full of love.

Today we come across many issues like increase in broken families by divorce, and sexual assaults and so on. The moral life is in danger and so much seems against the plan of God. So, the Lord invites us today to revisit our commitments whether it is married life or religious life. As family members are faithful to each other like parents to children, husband to wife, we as religious are called to be faithful to our evangelical counsels. This is a challenge set before us amidst the modern crisis to live our life according to the will of God. Let our lives give life and hope, not be dividing or stumbling block to the faithful people of God. Let us pray, as Jesus offered himself totally to the will of God, we may also offer our life to God totally by being faithful to our vows.

*Lawrence S csc*

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Readings: Gal 1:6-12; Lk 10:25-37

“Friend in need is a friend in deed” is a very old proverb that suits the situation of the gospel reading. ‘Who is my neighbour?’ is the question asked by the young man. Most of us have friends and we very well know that not all our friends are close to us. We have friends who help us to share only our joys. There are friends who leave us when we are in trouble. There are friends who will be with us at every moment of our life. He becomes our closest friend, a true friend, Good Samaritan.

The Levite in the gospel reading concentrated on his own work rather than helping the wounded person. We too may have an opportunity to help another, but we may have considered our work as superior and neglected the other. Its only when we consider the other as important and give value to his/her life we become a neighbor.

Jesus gave us only simple two commandments, “Love God and love neighbor as we love ourselves.” We often say that we love God, but neglect the neighbor. We get jealous, we gossip about them and accuse falsely. Today Jesus reminds us that, it is by respecting our neighbor and catering to the needs of the neighbor, that we love God.

*Joel Glan Mendonca csc*

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Readings: Gal 1:13-24; Lk 10:38-42

Out of His great love God calls us to be his messengers to the world, no matter what we do, where we live, and how we live. He calls and purifies us as we have seen in the life of St. Paul who persecuted Christians. God chose him to be his messenger of peace among the gentiles.

The gospel of today invites us to be a person of action and contemplation by placing before us the incident that took place in the house of Mary and Martha. In the words of our Constitution 3.22, "The more we come through prayer to relish what is right, the better we shall work in our mission for the realization of the kingdom."

In our Christian life we experience joy and satisfaction when we are with the Lord and in his mission. But many times the devil will come to entertain and distract us in order to take away our relationship with our God in the name of being busy in service. We can't compare which one is better... to be like Mary or like Martha because both qualities are important for us to be effective disciples of Christ. But it is very dangerous to remain only at doing well the work rather than link it with prayer which is the source of life and energy. This brings the impact in the society, in the church and the congregation as well.

As followers of Christ we cannot serve him without going to him, listening and being nourished by his words. We cannot expect the building to stand firm without proper foundation. We cannot be successful in the mission if we are not nourished and recharged by the word of God, prayer and meditation. Therefore, the invitation of Jesus today is to come to him every time to replenish our strength by listening to his words and bear fruit wherever we are planted.

I conclude with the words of our Constitutions, "We who busy ourselves in the Lord's kingdom need to come back often enough and sit at his feet and listen still more closely." (Cont. 2, Article 32)

*Shanborlang Mawrie csc*

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Readings: Gal 2: 1-2, 7-14; Lk 11: 1-4

In today's gospel we see the disciples of Jesus were inspired seeing him praying and they asked him to teach them how to pray. At times we might wonder, what exactly prayer is. Is it praising, asking forgiveness, blessings and protection or thanking for the blessing or something different from all these? But if we analyze the prayer that Jesus taught us, it consists of the above-mentioned elements. In simple words, prayer means surrendering oneself to the Lord.

Jesus' prayer also means that we are simple vulnerable people and we need the grace of the Lord for our existence here on earth. When talking to someone who is very close to us we would not think about something else as we talk, rather we would mean all that we say. The recitation of the Lord's Prayer too should be the same. Our prayer becomes meaningful when we reflect upon those words we utter.

Jesus tells that uttering a lot of words for which we actually have no meaning means nothing, but saying a few words with our heart and mind would mean a lot to him. The tax collector who humbled himself and surrendered to the Lord received the mercy of God, for he meant the few words he uttered (Luke 18: 13-14). At times when we just surrender ourselves to the Lord without even speaking a word, the Lord understands our heart and it becomes meaningful prayer in front of the Lord; like the woman whose sins were forgiven when she surrendered herself to the Lord with much sorrow (Luke 7: 47).

*Amalraj A. csc*

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Readings: Gal 3: 1-5; Lk 11: 5-13

After beginning with the Spirit are you now ending with the flesh? (Gal 3:3) This was the question raised by St. Paul today, by which I am very much disturbed personally. Jesus in the Gospel is very clear in explaining about the need of persistence in Prayer. He promises us that our persistence in prayer will strengthen the Spirit of God in us. So I realized that the moment I fail to be persistent in the Spirit of God whom I have received through my baptism, I end up with the flesh: the worldly desires. So today's liturgy invites us to be persistent in preserving the purity of the inner self which is the Spirit of God.

Here in the reading the word "flesh" does not mean physical flesh alone but it refers to more. As for me anything that makes us to be away from God is called "the flesh". It can be that disobedient, uncontrollable and adamant part of our inner self that is operative all the time. It can be the part of us that does not want to be told what to do. It can be our stubbornness, refusal for correction, and not want to have a thing to do with God. It can be our thoughts which lead us to sin. There is always an inner fight between our flesh and the Spirit of God.

As followers of Christ Jesus and being invited to pray in truth and Spirit let us examine ourselves. If you think that your thoughts are under control, just try to pray for five minutes in silence and watch how fast your mind wants to think of anything but God. And if you think that your flesh is strong, try to fast or be less selfish or stop using the technology device that you love to use on a daily basis and watch how your flesh goes to war in its desire.

So as men and women with hope to bring let us accept the invitation of Jesus to be persistent in preserving the purity of the inner self by being in constant touch with the Word of God and Prayer. Let us ask with confidence as children of Heavenly Father to strengthen the Holy Spirit and open our hearts to listen to the words of his Son. Then we may become worthy of the call we have accepted to follow.

*Martin Madalai Muthu csc*

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Readings: Gal 3:7-14; Lk 11:15-26

Sin entered the world through the disobedience of our first parents. Then God sent his beloved Son Jesus to this earth to raise the fallen human being and guide them towards the heavenly Father. However, during his stay on this earth, he himself encountered personal opposition and battle with Satan, when he was put to the test in the wilderness just before his public ministry. But Jesus overcame the evil through his obedience to the will of the Father.

A strong personality could be defeated only by someone who is greater than him/her. Devil can be defeated on this earth only by the power of God. Often, I tend to believe or think that I am out of evil and sinfulness. But it re-occurs again and again. My personal desire alone cannot keep me away from the sins or from the work of the evil spirit. As the Scripture says (Luke 11:20) 'if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come.' Moreover, only if it is by God that the evil behavior of mine is cast out from me, I would be able to remain away from sin and from the works of evil on this earth. Otherwise, as the Scripture says again towards the end of the Gospel passage of the day, (Luke 11:26) the evil spirit, which went out from me with my personal effort alone, goes out and brings seven other spirits who are more evil than himself and enter and dwell in my heart. Thus, the state of my life would turn into a situation worse than the first.

God is more powerful than the evil spirits and he has complete authority over them. Therefore, it is an invitation for me today to fight the works of the evil spirits within me and around me, with the Spirit of God.

*Siju Pappachan csc*

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Readings: Gal 3:22-29; Lk 11:27-28

Faith unites us all and that is what Jesus is telling us. We are no longer separate we are all united by faith. It is the same faith that leads us to listen to God's word and to fulfill it. In the gospel Jesus praises those who listen and fulfill the word of God. He compares them with his own mother who is one of the greatest examples for obedience. Every time I come across this gospel passage I hear from others that Jesus is indirectly praising his mother because she did listen and fulfill the word of God. I don't deny that, but I am eager to know that I do have an opportunity to be like our heavenly Mother by following God's word. Having opportunity and faith alone does not make me the person whom Jesus is expecting. My faith has to take step forward in work to justify me before God.

*Philosan S csc*

Readings: Wis 7:7-11; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30

‘The preference I give in my life makes who I am’ this simple saying is not strange to anyone of us. One thing I am sure is that I will not be happy, satisfied, or successful if I don't give first priority to God. This is the same issue in the life of the rich man of today's Gospel. He misunderstood in receiving God's grace. He probably thought if he does some rituals, gave some donations, and did some kind work he can please God. As I reflect, the question I ask myself today is ‘am I ready to give myself fully or only parts of me?’ Total surrender requires my first preference. I should be ready to give the first place to God, and then there is meaning to my commitment and my religious life. This is what we see in our founder Blessed Basile Moreau and St. Andre Bessette. We also see that the first and second readings speak about giving preference to God. Solomon attributes wisdom to God saying it is the spirit of God and there is nothing to compare her. This is why he prayed to God for wisdom above all things. And the author of the letter to Hebrews calls this wisdom as word of God which is full of your life, active and powerful and we are accountable to this Word because it is the judge for our thoughts and intentions of the heart.

‘Therefore Lord, give me the grace to seek you first, and your word that will make me what I am supposed to be’.

*Arone Vas csc*

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Readings: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1; Lk 11: 29-32

In the first reading we see Saint Paul telling us that we are the children of free woman and Christ has brought us out of slavery. Because of this we are free. So here is an invitation for us to be with Christ, not to go away from Christ. When we go away from Christ it is like we are going back to the sinful life, so Saint Paul is telling us to be with Christ by doing good works.

In the Gospel reading we see Jesus is speaking about the signs and symbols. Here Jesus is asking us to act according to the signs of the time. People listened to the words of Jonah and they changed their way of life because of which they were saved and here there is someone who is greater than Jonah. Here is an invitation for us to listen to the words of Jesus so that we may be saved from our sinful life and we may receive the new life which Jesus has given us by dying on the cross. We need to ask the grace of Jesus, so that we may be able to see the signs which are around us, through observing the signs we may be able to understand the words of Jesus and change our way of life, because of which we may be saved and come closer to God.

*Vijith Joncy Mathias csc*

Readings: Gal 5:1-6; Lk 11:37-41

Many of us are very particular about what others see about us. As much as possible, we would always try to paint an attractive picture of ourselves. This is what many of us are, very much driven with the external, temporary and those that do not last for a lifetime. If we truly love our brothers and sisters, our criticism will be a blessing, but if our criticism comes from envy, jealousy, and hatred then we are like the Pharisees. The passage makes us aware that, in order to be faithful to what God asks of us, it is not sufficient to observe the letter of the law. It is in how we practice love that the fullness of the law is attained. At times, we may be tempted to fall into the Pharisee-trap. If we justify ourselves by obedience to the law and neglect the greatest commandment - the commandment of love - we will not be pleasing to God. Jesus knows everything about us, we cannot hide anything from him. He knows our hidden secrets our double talk and those we try to put out. Let us find creative ways to become more understanding, more compassionate and forgiving.

*Anthoni Reddy csc*

Readings: Gal 5:18-25; Lk 11:42-46

It is very easy for a person to donate money but it is very difficult to keep it a secret, because everyone wants to proclaim about their charity. In today's gospel reading Jesus is inviting us to do charity not out of compulsion, without any love in what we are doing, or not do it for the sake of popularity and appreciation. Jesus says what your right hand does let your left hand not know. Jesus is very strong and persistent in pointing out the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. Their actions were to impress the people so that they get honor and respect. But the scripture says if you do anything without love it has no value in the sight of the Lord, because the Lord expects from us not sacrifices but mercy. The first reading tells us if we are led by the spirit, we are not under the law. Those who say I give to God ten percent of my earnings without love; are not doing it out of love for God but bound by the law. The offering of the poor widow was much more precious than offerings without any love because God sees the heart not the offering. The continuous conflict between the spirit and the desires of the flesh will put a person to the test to choose the right thing in the life. One who is led by the spirit will enjoy love, joy, peace etc. But one who is led by the desires of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God. So, let us not seek the respect and honor of the people by our hypocrisy but have Christ in your life as the model of love and compassion.

*Praveen Bandula csc*

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Readings: 2 Tim 4:10-17b; Lk 10:1-9

The readings challenge each one of us to live the life of a messenger of God's word. As a Christian I am called to be a follower of Christ, invited to imitate his values and to spread his good news. First reading shows the enthusiasm and energy reflected in Paul's words amidst difficulties and he invites the others to be the same way. On this feast of St. Luke we see the passion he had in doing God's work with Paul.

In the Gospel unlike any other leader Jesus takes a courageous step. He is straight forward and truthful in his words. By saying "to go like lambs into the midst of wolves" Jesus demands an open heart to accept the difficulties. Disciples of Jesus is sent to the people having different mentality, different temperament etc. The reaction can vary from person to person. In order to shine and to be attractive gold needs to go through the process of being purified in fire. As persons invited to inspire and change others through an upright life we need to go through suffering. Our action speaks louder than words and it must be through a simple life.

Let us examine ourselves, how much does my life inspire others? Is my life one of a disciple of Jesus or do we have other models? What are the values which hold me up to be a true disciple of Jesus? What am I doing to grow in those values?

*Nibin K Cyriac csc*

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Readings: Eph 1: 11-14; Lk 12: 1-7

The readings of the day are very consoling and hope-giving for me. Through the Gospel passage I am given hope and courage that my Lord and God will always be my strength and sole companion. I am encouraged to face the challenges and difficulties of life which at times I am unable to cope with and left in confusion. Today, the Lord calls and strengthens me by his words specifically the phrases, “Do not be afraid,” “You are valuable to me,” and “No one is forgotten in God’s sight”. St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians reminds me of the inheritance of God which I have received through Christ. I am given the guidelines that all things which come along my way shall be accomplished with the counsel and will of God the Father. In turn it demands me to give my hope and life into God’s hands and ways. The truth of the gospel is given to me to reflect and be inspired to live at my best every day. Lastly, I am invited to acknowledge and become aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit who continuously guides, inspires, and leads me onward to know the person of Jesus Christ in my daily life.

*Ruwnglal Friny Peter csc*

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Readings: Eph 1:15-23; Lk 12:8-12

“I tell you everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God.”

The reading of the day is an invitation for me to trust in God and depend on him in order to grow as his child. As a social being identity plays a very important role in everyone life. Very often we look for a higher position in the society and in order to acquire that position at times we even compromise our religious identity and refuse to acknowledge before others that we are Christians and followers of Christ. As a matter of fact, at times when I traveled in the train I often refuse to acknowledge my religious identity to my fellow travelers. Church in India is going through a very serious crisis, the religious and priests are looked down upon with shame and they become the talking point of unfaithfulness and scandals. The readings of the day is an invitation for me and everyone who follows Jesus to trust him fully and acknowledge him before others that ‘I am a Christian and a religious,’ then we will be able to find meaning in our Christian life and we will be able to face all the difficulties and challenges that church is going through today. Let us pray for the grace of God that every one of us becomes a radical follower of Christ by the very way of our life.

*Jijo Philip csc*

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Readings: Is 53: 10-11; Heb 4: 14-16; Mk 10:35-45

“BE A SERVANT”: This is the key theme of today’s liturgy. In the gospel reading, we read, John and James wanted to be at the right and left of Christ when he is in the heavenly kingdom. Jesus explains to them the mystery of his suffering and death and also assures that Father would decide whom to place right and left. And he teaches them, whoever wished to be first among them would be the servant to all. Jesus, because of his servant character, is being called Master, Teacher, etc. In the first reading Isaiah says, ‘through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear.’ He spoke about Jesus who would suffer for the sins of whole humanity. Jesus humbled himself and accepted death on the cross to save human race which shows that he came to serve, not to be served.

In today’s context it is hard for anyone to be a servant. I see many people want to be master or leader or great rather than being a humble servant to do service for others. It is the same in religious life and in secular life. Why do I need to see others and blame them? I myself would like to be great rather than be a servant, many times it has happened in my life. I might have read these readings many times in the past but I remain the same but I want others to be changed. Today it is a call for me to look at myself more than others’ life, to be a servant. I too can give a nice reflection to be read by others; but how am I going to live? Is it possible that I change myself to be a servant? I have to do some practical things rather than giving a lot of reflection for others.

*Manoj K. Rathinam csc*

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Readings: Eph 2:1-10; Lk 12: 13-21

Today in the gospel reading Jesus teaches a great lesson to entire human race that one's life does not consist in the abundance of possession but in the fullness of sharing. Here I would like to highlight a personality, man of the millennium Sir Palam Kalyana Sutharam who hailed from Tamil Nadu and has given his life earnings in order to up brings of the poor children and needy. He lives his life in accordance with Gospel Mt 25:40, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me." And God loves a cheerful giver too. Today the modern era witnesses innumerable killings. Families are scattered without mutual understanding. The cause of all these problems could be not having a heart to share the little that we have. Let us examine ourselves with these questions: Are we ready to sacrifice our time for others? Are we ready to share the very minimum things that we have with others? It is an opportunity to share our belongings and earnings with one another like the widow who offered two coins and Zacchaeus who shared his possession with others. As the world longs for good human hearts to look after the poor and needy, let us step out.

*Brandon csc*

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Readings: Eph 2:12-22; Lk 12:36-38

In the gospel reading we read “See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit.” God has created us in his own image and likeness. And we read in Eph 4:24 “put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” What God wants from us is to remain and live in that same image which he has created us; to wear the same dignity till the end of our life, the dignity of righteousness and holiness; and to remain in that image of God is to be prepared any time for his coming. God is not interested in what we look like, whether fair or dark, short or tall, but he wants us to appear to him in that same image and enkindle ourselves with the same fire. To remain in the state of holiness and righteousness is to imitate the life of Christ and be washed ourselves with the blood which he has shed for us. We hear in the first reading that we are made clean by the blood of Christ therefore, we become worthy to dine with the Lord when he comes. We are invited to stay alert and watchful in all that we do and be prepared for the coming of the Lord in anytime.

*Lawrence Wanniang csc*

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Readings: Eph 3:2-12; Lk 12:39-48

The arrival of the son of man will be like a thief. As a Christian, we have an eagerness to see Jesus when he comes to earth for the second time. This is like a surprise gift given to us in unexpected time and date. So we have to prepare ourselves to receive our master Lord Jesus into our hearts because we do not know when he comes. Jesus gives an invitation to us to repent and go to him as his faithful servants. He is very patient to teach the moral value to us to live a meaningful life.

In today's gospel reading Jesus says that from everyone to whom much has been given much will be demanded. We have received many things from God like talents, blessings, vocation etc.. He chose us from among many men to follow him, to be with him and to do his mission. He called us to lead his people because we responded to his call. He has given more to us, so he expects more from us. Through our talents, we help the other members to go closer to God. If we hide and keep our talents within, then it doesn't stay with us and goes away from us. God gave us a life to live it meaningfully and he too entrusted us with different gifts to do good for the humanity. We show our life as exemplary to the others to follow Christ who is the ultimate.

*Pravin S csc*

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Readings: Eph 3: 14 – 21; Lk 12: 49 - 53

Today the first reading tells about faith and in the gospel, we hear about divisions. I remember an incident that happened when I was doing my parish experience. One of the families approached parish priest to become Catholics. I had a conversation with them, and I realized that their desire was not because of their faith in God, but because the children would get some concessions from the school. That was the mentality those people had. As Catholics it happens among us. We can divide the people in the name of religion. Nowadays gospel values are taken away by money and power. So human tendency is that wherever we go, we make divisions based on money, power, region, taste. The Gospel reading tells that suffering and problems are part of our day-to-day living. When we follow gospel values without divisions we can overcome most problems in our life.

*Sharon Piuse csc*

Readings: Eph 4:1-6; Lk 12:54-59

“Today we have learned to swim like a fish, we have learned to fly like a bird, but we have failed to live like a human being” this is similar to what Jesus Christ is trying to tell us in the Gospel. We can predict what’s happening in the earth. Then why do we fail to understand the kingdom of God, the ultimate Goal of every human being, as *Teilhard de Chardin* would say the “Omega point” moving towards ultimate, taking along with us our brothers and sisters and nature? The reading also invites us to not judge others, and Jesus gives us a practical tip to settle the issue before it reaches the court. Today we see that 3.3 crore cases are pending in Indian courts. People fail to forgive others. Earlier people used to approach a priest for settlement; but today it’s not happening. As religious we should introspect what went wrong. Forgiveness and reconciliation should be high priority of all the Christians. This is what the reading tells us today: work for the establishment of the kingdom of God, because God has given us already a sign, his only Son Jesus Christ.

*Pretham Joy Menezes csc*

Readings: Eph 4:7-16; Lk 13:1-9

Today's liturgy is inviting us to focus on the theme, "**Graces given and measured in time**". This entire universe, living and non-living beings exist, grow and die in time. Our life and all aspects of life depend on time only. Success and failure are determined by time. Our existence (life) is limited by time but our essence (graces) is unlimited. The essence (graces) is different for person to person whereas existence (life) is same for everyone. Therefore, what I do with what is given to me in time will make all the difference.

In the first reading, St. Paul tells us that each of us is given graces and we are expected to live up to the graces (inborn talents) given to us. These graces are tagged with purpose and they are time-bound. The purpose of the graces (gifts) is to glorify God through the unification of my life with Christ. In the Gospel reading, Jesus emphasizes time-bound growth of the fig tree. I am given certain duration of time to produce according to what is given to me that include all my talents and nurtured values. If I don't live according to what I professed or what is expected of me, I shall be terminated. In other words, I would be spiritually and morally dead. Therefore, I am invited to change or transform myself according to what is given to me.

*Antony Jayaraj csc*

Readings: Jer 31:7-9; Heb 5: 1-6; Mk 10: 46-52

Today's readings are inviting us to be joyful like the people of Israel who were saved by God and like the blind man in the Gospel who by hearing that Jesus called him jumped and went to him to be healed. In the first reading we see the Lord inviting the people to rejoice and to proclaim the goodness of God. And in the Gospel we see Jesus healing the blind Bartimaeus by his faith. Happiness very often comes after or with the pain or suffering. If we do not know this, we always complain to God about suffering, asking why there is suffering only to me or only to my family. But very often we fail to thank God when our problems are being solved and we are at peace. Have ever thought about it? If not it is because we fail to see the goodness of God but only our pain and sufferings. This is where we have to take the example of the blind Bartimaeus who was blind for long years. When he was healed, he followed Jesus. He knew, the moment Jesus called him, that he would be healed therefore he jumped with joy.

The invitation for us today is that like St. Paul we can say 'when I am weak then I am strong' in the Lord. And like the blind man, have faith that God always will help us when we are in need, for which we need to be perseverant in our prayer and never lose heart.

*Arockia Raj csc*

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Readings: Eph 4: 32 - 5: 8; Lk 13: 10-17

In today's gospel reading Jesus cures a crippled woman on the Sabbath day. It shows the compassionate love and generous heart of Jesus for the sick and needy. On seeing the miracle performed by Jesus, the leader of the synagogue complained to the crowd. For him Jesus did not respect the law, but Jesus went beyond to show God's love and caring nature for the human than to give priority for the laws. This is an invitation for you and me to examine ourselves and the basis on which we set our priorities.

In the gospel passage, Jesus reached out to the woman and told her that she was healed of her infirmity. It shows the tenderness of Jesus. Jesus understands the unspoken woes and sufferings of people. This is the mission we are also called to carry on in our day-to-day living. We should not wait for people to come to us with a request for help. Instead, we should become another Christ for those who suffer in their life. As we reflect on this passage, let us take some time to answer these questions within ourselves. Are our eyes open to the sufferings of people? Are we ready to touch them with a compassionate heart?

*Vimal Wilbert csc*

Readings: Eph 5:21-33; Lk 13:18-21

The readings of the day invite us to enter into the kingdom of God as a simple tool of Christ. The Gospel reading compares the kingdom of God with a mustard seed. Though mustard seed is very small, when it grows it becomes a big plant. The hidden life in the seed becomes a big tree. In the same way in our life, we may feel lack of talent or education or wealth, but when we surrender to God in prayer by means of teaching, helping, sharing with others, we will realize the hidden talents and prosper like a mighty tree.

Yes dear friends, to become a simple tool of Christ, we need to have the attitude of humility. Even Jesus was born as son of a carpenter. The disciples of Christ had neither plenty of wealth nor high educational degrees. Let us also remember our Brother, St. Andre, the gatekeeper, who was simple and sincere. He spoke and lived as a simple tool of Christ. The martyrs too taught us through their life, that "their drop of blood is the seed of the church." Though they are gone long ago still we remember and ask them to intercede for us, not because they are rich in wealth or highly qualified, but they are simple tools of Christ, who surrendered their lives to Christ.

So dear friends, to enter the kingdom of God, Jesus wants us to be simple and sincere in our lives. As St. Mother Teresa says, "Not all of us can do great things but we can do small things with great love."

*Joseph Inbaraj csc*

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Readings: Eph 6:1-9; Lk 13:22-30

First reading invites us to fear the Lord and to do everything for him. It also calls us to have awareness of our moral duties. Gospel reading invites us to prepare our self to enter into the kingdom of God.

In today's world humans live for their own pleasure, for their own comfort and as self-centered. Human has become blind in experiencing satisfaction in tangible things. It's challenging for him to focus on the word of God or to really look into his sense of spirituality. And so today, Jesus insists us to be ready with our pure heart, to enter into his Father's house. He asks us to focus on our ultimate destination which God wills. So, it's now an invitation for us to look forward to the means and ways that can help us to reach our spiritual destination.

*Roshan D'Souza csc*