



Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

October 2014

(Not For Sale)



" LIVE BY THE SPIRIT" (Galatians 5:16)

GOD BLESS YOU



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BLESSINGS OF GOD BE YOURS...

" But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid." (Psalm 22:19)

Father God! Yaweh! I think of You. My God! I fall prostrate at your Feet.

Father God! My most powerful One! I drench Your Feet with my tears.

Father God! Yaweh! O Holy One! Cast Your merciful glance on me.

O God! Yaweh! I lay in great agony. There are no words to describe my pain.

O God! Innumerable are the agonies and insults that have befallen me these days! You know it all O LORD!

I am unable to bear the words spoken by my relatives and those close to me, without ever understanding me!

I stand drained of all my energy. LORD ! I am unable to bear this. There is no consolation from any one.

My God! You who are my Strength! I have become equal to a worm. I writhe in pain like a worm wriggling under the heat of the sun. Insults, my heavily laden heart and my troubles all burn me.

I have become an object of man's scorn and insults.

My God! You my Source of strength! Come quickly. Grant me Your Strength!

Free me O LORD! Save me from the clutches of the wild lion. Preserve me that I may never get caught under the horns of the oxen.

O God! My God! Yaweh! My Redeemer! Preserve me.

Thank you my God! Thank You! ThankYou for bending down and paying heed to my plea. I praise You! I exalt Your name!

AMEN ! ALLELUIA!

Fr.V.Ignatius.S.J.

BELOVED IN CHRIST...

BE MERCIFUL TOWARDS YOUR NEIGHBOUR (Luke 10:37)

The story of The Good Samaritan is one of the stories narrated by Jesus. This is an important story , one of the most captivating ones which mesmerize any reader of the Bible. One of the learned men among the Jews questioned Jesus demanding an explanation on the Book of the Laws. " What should one do in order to inherit eternal life?" For which Jesus answered through a question, " What is written in the law? What do you read there?" For which the lawyer answered: " You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18)

Jesus appreciated him much and said, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."The learned man was not only happy but wanted to exhibit his skill. He raised a much more intricate and sharper question. He wanted that any one who listened to this question should suffocate. The statement in Leviticus 19:18 ' You shall love your neighbour as your self' is praise worthy. But how to understand this? And who is my neighbour?" A husband, may think of his wife and children. A wife may think of her husband and children, or we think of cousins and relatives, near and dear ones, the caste, religion, community.

The Jewish expert wanted to suffocate Jesus with his question and wanting to prove that he was a just man, asked this question, "Who is my neighbour?"

The answer that Jesus gave would make any teacher think deeply! Besides, it is an astonishing one as well. The pedagogy and methodology used by Jesus to teach the young man is indeed amazing. The story of the Good Samaritan narrated by Jesus, still baffles the social thinkers and scholars of psychology. To benefit out of this story , read Luke chapter 10 verses 30 to 37.

A Jew who had fallen a prey in the hands of the bandits. The bandits stripped him of all his clothing, beat him black and blue and left him half-dead. A priest who belonged to a Jewish clan and later a Levite, passed by that way. Even on noticing the wounded man, they passed by him without lending a helping hand and just ignoring him. But a man who did not belong to his clan or community - A Samaritan - some

one who did not belong to his social standing or caste, on seeing the wounded man, felt pity for him, approached him, bandaged his wounds, took him to a hospital and cared for him. He also paid for his medical expenses.

After narrating this story, Jesus Himself asked a question: To the one who fell a prey to the bandits, who among the three- The Jewish priest, the Levite who belonged to the Jewish clan, the Samaritan who helped but did not belong to the Jewish community, who do you consider the neighbour?

The Learned Jewish scholar, the one who raised a question to Jesus, the one who listened to the story narrated by Jesus fully, he out of his own mouth said, "The neighbour of the wounded man is the one who showed him mercy." And this is the final statement that Jesus gave the learned man: "You too go and do like wise." This answer became the judgment for the question as to what one should do to inherit eternal life. It is about showing mercy to our neighbour.

Let us never hesitate to show mercy to who ever may stand in need of it. I wish you joy! Fr.V. Ignatius.S.J; Satya Nilayam, 81, L.B. Road; Thiruvanniyur; Chennai- 600 041.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Jesus often preached about The kingdom of God. He spoke in parables to the people and explained their meaning. He taught us to pray to the Father saying, "May Your kingdom come." He prepared the people by saying, "The kingdom of God is close at hand." Let us especially read the Gospel of Matthew and make the teachings of our LORD Jesus, our own.

"THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER" (Matthew 13:3-23)

1. The sower went to sow his seeds, Some seeds fell along the pathway. The birds came and ate them up.

Some seeds fell on rocks. They sprouted, but dried up soon.

Some others fell among thorny bushes. The thorns choked them up.

And some others fell on good soil. They produced fruit several fold.

Jesus explained this parable. God Himself sows the Word of God. The human heart is of several types like this soil. Some hearts are akin to the pathway. When the seeds fall on this soil, they go without producing any fruit. Even though these people hear about the kingdom of God, yet they do not understand it. Those without feelings are bereft of the capacity to comprehend The Word of God. Those who do not understand the worth of The Word of God, those who ignore It, even though The Word of God falls into their heart, the evil one snatches It away. The evil one is always against The Kingdom of God. The evil one is against The Heavenly Father who sows The Word of God. The evil one cheats mankind. Even if The Word of God falls into the human heart, the evil one immediately snatches it away from there. In such hearts as these, the evil one rules and resides.

1. Some hearts are like the rocky ground. They give a little place for God and for His Word. But that Word does not bear complete fruit. This is akin to seeds sown on barren soil. They just thrive on the surface. They can be compared to the goats that graze on the tip of the grass. They are bereft of deep roots within.

Only when the seed that is sown, takes deep roots, can it grow in a fertile manner. But their heart does not give place for The Word of God to take root. They just rejoice momentarily on hearing the Word. But they do not meditate deeply on It. They will not behave according to the Word. They are never permanent in anything.

In fact when there are circumstances or events happening according to their whims and fancies or their demands, then they will listen to The word.

We see some attitude in certain parishes and towns. When some "Social work or schemes to fill up their bellies" are undertaken, then they label them "good priests". Instead if they are given Retreats for their spiritual growth or when The word of God is spoken, they do not have the necessary mind set to comprehend the depth of God's Word. "Will he build a church for us? Will he buy us new clothes during Christmas and New Year? Will he buy us kilos of rice?" By asking such base questions, they never give prime importance to the Word of God. We can well compare them to a barren land.

Even during the time of Jesus, several were the people who lived solely expecting miracles from Him.

Once Jesus preached to a great multitude and blessed and multiplied the bread and fed thousands of people. That very day Jesus disappeared from their sight. After two days, they found Jesus at Capernaum after desperately searching for Him. And this is what He told them: "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of loaves." (John 6:26)

That is to say, that some people will search for Jesus expecting some bonus from Him. When they do not get what they want then they would surely switch parties. This is similar to going on a strike. This is like the workers in our land, placing their petitions and going on a strike.

1. Jesus compares a few more to the seeds that have fallen among the thorn bushes. The worries of the world and the attractions of wealth, choke the Word and they become useless. There are so many troubles and attractions in this world. Some fall a prey to them. When a person is thus choked by the worldly worries and attractions, they go compressed and stifled, without a proper involvement or zeal towards The Word of God.

Remember this and consider, recall it to mind (Isaiah 46:8) So saying, Isaiah the prophet invited the people of God to think. There is nothing in this world which is equal to God.

But some would have filled their hearts with all the attractions of this world and amidst it all, would have 'also given a place for God.'

When we enter some houses, we can see attractive posters all around the walls of the house. And among these many pictures, there might be one of Jesus or of Mother Mary. If this situation stays only with the walls it is ok. But if their hearts are filled to capacity like this, they can become enslaved to worldly things and to idol worship. That is to say that so many worries and attractions may dominate over us.

It is not as if these people are completely bereft of devotion to God. But several distractions and worries prevent the heart from getting fully devoted to God. They are unable to give the first and the most important place to God.

1. The heirs to the Kingdom of God and those who belong to it are akin to seeds that fell on good soil. That soil is perfected for these seeds. This heart remains for God alone. They think of God alone and give Him alone the place of prime importance. Mother Mary who appears at Medjugorje has requested the people to "Give God the first place in our lives." When one gives God the total place in the heart, then that person is within God's authority. This is The kingdom of God. When any other created thing occupies the place in someone's heart, then there is no place for God's authority. When the created things dominate a person's heart, then the Word of God does not bear fruit there.

But we should pray ardently that we should produce fruit like a seed that had fallen on good soil. Jesus taught us, wishing that we come within God's authority:

Our Father in heaven! Holy be Your Name! Your Kingdom come!

"The Weeds among the wheat" (Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-41)

While He was explaining about The kingdom of God, Jesus gave one more parable. The kingdom of God can be compared to a person who sowed good seed in his soil. When all were asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among his wheat.

While the wheat grows, the weeds too grow alongside it. It was difficult to tell the weeds from the wheat. As the days grew, the difference was seen. The servants came and reported the matter to the master. They said, "the weeds have also grown." The master told the servants, "this is the enemy's doing." But he let the weeds stay among the wheat till harvest season. That the wheat may not get uprooted along with the weeds, he said, "Let the weeds and the wheat grow till the harvest season." During the harvest season, He asked that weeds and the wheat be tied in separate bundles saying, "tie them up in bundles. I would ask that the wheat alone be gathered to be stored in the barns."

That God's will get established on this earth, God Himself chooses some people as good seeds. He prepares their heart by cleansing them by the power of the Holy Spirit. Yes! Although God's plans are accomplished according to His will, the enemy who despises humankind, turns the hearts of some from God towards him. "The weeds are the enemy's people. The enemy who had sown them is the evil one."

While the children of God strive their utmost to live according to God's holy will, the enemy of the kingdom of God and his supporters penetrate the group and behave as if they were as good as the good people. They are really a big hinderance to The kingdom of God. But God waits patiently till the Harvest season. On the Last day, The angels of God will gather such as these who are hinderances to God's Kingdom, and push them into the furnace of hell. There "there will be biting and gnashing of teeth." The righteous alone "will shine like the sun" in God's Kingdom.

We would be surprised to see in the Church, parishes, among the faithful in this world, a predominance of fights, confusions, irritation, anger, jealousy, selfishness and ego. I would wonder why all this should happen among the faithful and feel grieved at heart.

The explanation that Jesus Himself gave is the best one. This is the enemy's doing! Just when the wheat grows, the weeds too grow alongside. But the Servants of God should be vigilant to see that the enemy and his evil designs don't wipe away the wheat fully.

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