



Scripture nugget – The key to a deeper insight of God and mysteries of His Kingdom

At that time Jesus said in reply, “I give praise to You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned You have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been Your gracious will (Matthew 11:25-26).

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God (Matthew 5:8). It was interesting to note who were the ones who could recognize the long-awaited Christ, the only begotten Son of God when He came in the flesh. One would have thought that the chief priests, scribes and religious elders would be the enlightened ones to point Christ to those under their care. However, the actual situation was really quite different. The lowly people flocked in great numbers to hear the preaching of Christ, so attracted were they by His doctrine and the miracles He performed. On the other hand, the religious leaders were so envious of Christ and blinded that they actually planned to put Him to death! In great contrast to their scandalous response were that of elderly prophetess Anna and Simeon who were present at the presentation of Baby Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. Both were simple, God-fearing, devout and led holy lives. Both could recognize the Messiah instantly without anyone pointing out to them. They glorified God, pointed out the Messiah to others and spread the Good News. They were insignificant people in their community but God can see their pure hearts. They were chosen by God to be witnesses at Baby Jesus’ presentation at the Temple.

How much God will reveal to us depends on how ready our hearts are. *They look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand (cf. Matthew 13:13).* When Jesus was questioned by His disciples why He spoke in parables, He answered that it was because some people had no wish to hear or accept what He had to say. These are the people whose hearts are closed to God’s grace, they prefer to walk their own way pursuing their own self-interest, and have no interest to seek the truth or their own salvation. The hearts of these souls will not be ready to receive the gifts of wisdom and discernment which are necessary to gain an insight into God and the mysteries of His Kingdom. The chief priests and the religious elders demanded of Jesus, saying: *“By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?”* (cf. Matthew 21:23). Because they were blinded to the truth, their behaviour was scandalous and offensive to God. Even if Jesus were to explain to them the truth which they rejected, He would be the subject of more ridicule and renunciation from them. With wisdom, Jesus put them into silence by posing them a question they could not answer. *Do not give what is holy to dogs, or throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them underfoot, and turn and tear you to pieces (Mt 7:6).*

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, I consecrate to You my poor heart. Purify it, take my pride and self-love and replace it with Your humility and love of God and all the things that God stands for. Open my heart and impart to it Your wisdom and discernment. By my loving obedience to Your commandments, may I gain a deeper insight into Your love for me and perceive the action of Your hand in my daily life. Thus, may I gain a greater conviction of my faith, be ready to give a stronger witness to You, and live my life more fully. Help me keep my heart pure by focusing on Your love for me. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.