

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to John (John 18:37)

Jesus answered (Pilate), “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to Me.” The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ It takes courage and perseverance to live in the Truth and uphold it

How does Jesus testify to the Truth? Jesus comes in the flesh and gives testimony to the real existence of God who loves the world so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus to be a sacrifice in expiation for the sins of everyone (Cf. John 3:16). It is a liberating truth that determines our eternal destiny. It is an eternal truth that is available to everyone in today’s world. It is the eternal truth that gives hope and meaning to our lives. Jesus invites everyone to receive salvation from Him and to claim the glorious inheritance God has planned for each of His children. For those who truly believe in Jesus, the best is yet to come. And God will not disappoint those who love Him.

Pilate said to Jesus, What is Truth? (John 18:38). Jesus said: I am the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).

Jesus is the fullness of Truth. He is the Eternal Truth, the Truth that stands forever. Yet, souls with hearts hardened by sins such as Pilate find it difficult to recognize the Truth even when confronted with it. Consciences that are not formed in the Truth will find it difficult to recognize and accept truth as it is. On the other hand, it will readily accept compromised truth which, however, will lead to evil and sin. Acceptance of compromised truth is the easy way out and permits the soul to remain in its comfort zone and be in the popular opinion and tastes of the day.

Compromise of truth is the basis of sin. The path of truth which is paved with the true, infallible teachings of Christ leads to righteousness with God, a righteousness that belongs to Christ which is available to us when we pledge our loyalty and obedience to Christ, our Saviour. Compromise of truth leads away from the path of truth into the easy and broad highway on which many souls are travelling with ease but which will lead to perdition. Jesus has warned us about this. He says: *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2).*

Evil comes dressed in goodness, and boldly presents itself as new ‘truths’. Evil is cunning and comes dressed in goodness appealing to the human emotion and logic, but is discerned by true faith in Jesus Christ. Very often it is blatantly and legally promoted as a human right and freedom and something open to debate. With a compromised conscience, sin is not acknowledged as sin but accepted as an alternative way of life, a matter of choice/preference, a human right. A compromised conscience accepts this because it has no true standard with which to test the proposition.

It needs courage and perseverance to accept, live in and uphold the truth. *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).* Jesus and everything He teaches stands forever. *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away (Matthew 24:35).* The detractors of our faith would like to claim that the teachings of our faith are no longer relevant to our times. On the contrary, the more the world deviates from the path of truth, the more it cries out for the infallible hope that only the teachings of Christ can bring to a fallen world and liberate it from the path of falsity that it is now travelling.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You are Truth but the world does not recognize this. Thus, it is in darkness. Send Your Spirit of Truth into the heart of the world to convict and form all consciences in the Truth which stands forever and liberates us from the power of darkness. Lord, You have powerfully testified to the Truth when You came in the flesh. You said I too must testify to the Truth (Cf. John 15:27). *All Your words are true; all Your righteous laws are eternal (Psalm 119:160).* Engrave Your Word and laws in my heart that I may always walk in the path of truth. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.