

Scripture reflection

A Reading from the Book of Leviticus (*Leviticus 20:26*)

You are to be holy to Me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be My own. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – The Greatest Inspiration We can Receive

The greatest inspiration we can receive is the call to holiness. It is the call God the Creator makes to all His children living in civilised or uncivilised societies, working through His own unique ways quietly and unseen by the undiscerning human eye. In the civilised society most persons would undoubtedly have heard of Jesus. Most would know what He stands for and why He died. The written accounts of His resurrection, His claims of salvation of the world, His death on the cross and His holy Church standing for over 2,000 years are so amazing and stupendous that it constitutes a strident call to the unbelieving human heart to investigate the truth in the person of Jesus. These are the ways we can observe with our human intellect. Silent and unseen are myriads of other methods that God in His almighty ways is working in calling His children to holiness. What is the response of His children? God does not force, He respects the freewill given as His gift to His children.

As a loving human father desires the best for his children, God the Father ardently desires to call all His children to holiness. As a loving Father, God calls out to all His children to be holy so that they are fit to enter His Kingdom where He has lovingly prepared a place of dwelling for each and every one of them (cf. John 14:2). Which human father despite all his sins and human weaknesses will not seek the best for his children? The most ardent desire in the heart of God is the eternal salvation of all His children. Which father even the most hard-hearted will not grieve if any of his children is lost? God demonstrates how strong this desire is when He allows Jesus, His only begotten Son to die a cruel death on the Cross so as to open the gates of heaven to all His children. Through Jesus' Precious Blood which atones for all sins, all repentant sinners can qualify for heaven.

To be holy is to have and to nurture a loving personal relationship with God. *I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from Me there is no God (Isaiah 45:5).* God tells us through Prophet Isaiah there is no other God other than Himself. Though many do not know Him or desire to know Him, God lavishes His love on all His children in many unacknowledged ways as God's tender words through Prophet Hosea attest to this. *It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them (Hosea 11:3-4).*

To be holy is to be in good standing with God in the eyes of God. To be in good standing with God is to live in His love, abiding by all His commandments as handed down to Moses in the Ten Commandments, as given by Jesus in the two great commandments of love, as in the precepts and morals taught by Jesus through the Gospels, and in the teaching authority of His Church. All of God's teachings can be summarised simply by holy love of God above all others, followed by love of others as ourselves. Jesus gives a convincing example of sacrificial love by His life and death on the holy Cross. Having called His children to holiness, God sets out for them a road in which to walk to Paradise. It is the way of holy love and holy truth in Jesus, His Son. It is living in holy love in the present moment as exemplified by Jesus and Mary and all the saints who came before us.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, thank You for constantly calling me to personal holiness. You say to me: "Be perfect as Your Heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48). By my own efforts I can never rise above my human weaknesses but through the help of Your graces I can achieve anything You call me to. Teach me to have an open and humble heart so that I can receive Your graces that I need. I glorify You most when I fulfil Your greatest desire and that is for my eternal salvation. Open the hearts of my unbelieving brothers and sisters so that they too can rejoice in Your love and promise of eternal salvation. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for all of God's children. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.