



Scripture nugget – We are raised by God to proclaim His Truth

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord (Luke 4:18-19).

From the very beginning before the foundation of the earth was laid, God chose us in Him to be holy and without blemish in His sight (cf. Ephesians 1:4) and has a definite plan for each and every one of us even before we were born. *For we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them (Ephesians 2:10).* At our Baptism, each of us is honored to become a member of God's family, and is entrusted with a share in the priesthood, prophethood, and kingship of Christ. Each of us has a definitive share in Christ's mission to establish God's kingdom on earth. Undoubtedly, God could have saved the whole world without us, but in His infinite wisdom and love, He chooses us to be partakers in the mission of the salvation of the world. We are privileged that God has raised us to such high levels, and the praise of His love and wisdom will always be in our hearts and on our lips! St Paul urges us to open the eyes of our heart to realize the greatness of God's calling and the glory of our inheritance! *May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to His call, what are the riches of glory in His inheritance among the holy ones (Ephesians 1:18).*

We proclaim God's Truth when we manifest His mercy to others. It may be that not every one of us is called to preach the gospel publicly like St John the Baptist but it is clear that each and every one who has been baptized is called to proclaim the truth to those near and dear courageously like St John the Baptist proclaiming the truth of the sacredness of marriage to King Herod. For his great courage in speaking the truth to the high and mighty, God honored St John the Baptist with martyrdom. In accordance to God's commandment of love, we are obliged to manifest God's mercy by charitable actions to those in spiritual or bodily needs and necessities. As Christ teaches us: helping to save a soul is far better than saving the whole environmental, physical world including all its treasures (cf. Matthew 16:26). In His Last Commissioning, Christ clearly reminds us that our mission is to help save souls (cf. Matthew 28:20), God's most valuable creation in His own image and likeness. Spiritual works of mercy include: instructing, advising, consoling, comforting, forgiving, bearing wrongs patiently and praying for souls. Corporal works of mercy include feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. ***Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already (C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity).***

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You are the Eternal Truth. Consecrate me in the Truth. Form my mind and conscience in the Truth. Guard my heart with holy love. Flood my soul with Your Holy Spirit, and burn away all the self-love that is in me and ignite the fire of divine love in my heart so that I can be strengthened to proclaim the Truth to those near and dear. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.