

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel according to John (John 14:1-3)

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – God has prepared a heavenly mansion for you and your family

In His high divine purpose, God created us to be His family. God is not a single person. God, the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit is a Divine Community like a family. God the Father created us to be an extension of His Family with Jesus as our Brother. God invites us to live the family life of the Blessed Trinity with love bonding each and every member and to God. *He (God) predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will— to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves (Ephesians 1:5-6).* Before we were born, God already knows what purpose our lives would serve. Through the greatness of His generosity, God is very happy to elevate us to the highest dignity of being God's own sons and daughters not through any merits of ours but solely through the grace of His Son, Jesus Christ. We are sons and daughters of the Most High! That is our true identity!

As children of God, we share the same privileges as Jesus in God's Kingdom. *Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory (Romans 8:17).* A loving human family shares not only joys but also sorrows. In order that we can reclaim the eternal glorious inheritance that we lost through sin, Jesus took upon Himself all the just punishment due to our sins so that we are able to stand in His righteousness before God at our final judgment when we die. As our Brother and Saviour, Jesus invites us to walk in His footsteps carrying our own crosses every day, living a life of love and sacrifice on this earthly pilgrimage. St Paul reminds us of the heavenly glory that awaits us: *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us (Romans 8:18).* *No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human mind has conceived - the things God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9).* Every parent knows how to plan good things for their children. Would God our Father who loves us infinitely more than our earthly parents and who is capable of anything do less for us?

God has a plan for each of us that will lead us to our eternal inheritance He has prepared for us. *For I know the plan I have for you," declares the Lord, "plan to prosper you and not to harm you, plan to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).* God's ways are different from our ways. God is more concerned about our eternal life whereas we are short sighted and sometimes live as if our earthly life is all there is to it. Many unfortunate souls are under this demonic deception, and so spend their whole lives acquiring material wealth and comfort and gratifying every bodily desires. In living a materialistic and hedonistic life, many are walking unaware on the road to eternal sorrows and suffering. *What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? (Matthew 16:26).*

We have responsibility as God's children. God gives us freewill that we may love Him freely just as He loves us freely, not because of our merits but simply because He is love. After having given us His Son Jesus for our redemption, would God the Father withhold any other good thing from us? By ourselves, we would not be able to find the true path to our heavenly destination. But Jesus has taught us clearly how we should walk. *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven (Matthew 7:21).* God is to be the first priority in our life. Once we make this a reality, we lack nothing even if we are still on this earthly journey (Cf. Matthew 6:33).

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, thank You for preparing a mansion for me and my loved ones in heaven. May I have a clear focus of the destination I am heading to, without getting distracted along the way by false lights, lure of earthly pleasures, honours and wealth. May I, even on earth, live my true identity, an identity for which I was created out of nothing and which will remain mine for all eternity. Thank You for creating me to be Your brother/sister and to have a share in Your glorious kingdom. I know of the great things that await me, planned by our Father in love. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.