

Dacci oggi il nostro pane

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SEVENTH DAY

Palm Sunday
Year B

His disciples did not understand at the time

The mystery of Jesus, even though it is revealed by the Word and the works of the Lord, always remains mystery that goes beyond our mind, our intelligence, our rationality. We are finite. The mystery of Jesus is infinite. This is the reason why, often, one refers in the Gospels to the misunderstanding of the disciples: "But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was hidden from them so that they should not understand it, and they were afraid to ask him about this saying." (Lk 9, 45) "But they understood nothing of this; the word remained hidden from them and they failed to comprehend what he said." (Lk 18, 34). "His disciples did not understand this at first, but when Jesus had been glorified they remembered that these things were written about him and that they had done this for him". (John 12, 16) "For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead." (John, 12, 12) But everything comes up to the light after the resurrection. Risen Jesus opens the mind of his disciples, he instills the Holy Spirit in it and they open themselves to the knowledge of the mystery.

"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things». (Lk, 24, 44-48).

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However, this does not mean that all the mystery has been understood. The Acts of the Apostles reveal that the Apostles must always be illuminated, fortified, educated, taken by hand by the Holy Spirit and led to the full light of the mystery of Jesus. As the Apostles first walked with Jesus, now they must walk with the Holy Spirit, in constant listening of It. It speaks and the Apostles listen. The Apostles ask for light and the Holy Spirit answers adding light to light. If one separates from the Holy Spirit, the mystery of Jesus cannot never be known nor lived. May the Mother of God obtain for us every light.

Let us read in the Gospel according to Luke: «He said to them,



LAMP UNTO MY FEET

The fine art of temptation

It is urgent that every disciple of Jesus convinces himself in the Holy Spirit that the Word of God is the only one that remains in eternity. The art and the science of temptation and of tempters, art and science that are always new, always updated to the latest finds, know how to introduce in the Word of the Lord the elements that from the purest truth transform it into falsity, from light they make it become darkness, without us even realizing it, so fine and invisible is the trap armed by them. Today the art and the science of temptation and of tempters have succeeded in: eliminating Christ Jesus, the Father of Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit of Christ Jesus from the mystery of the faith; rendering the Church no longer light of the world and no longer universal sacrament of salvation; declaring the Gospel equal to any other existing sacred book in the world; rendering all the religion of the earth equal with regards to the salvation and eternal life; transforming the objective evil in good, in light, in law, in love, in life necessity for every man; depriving the Church of its beauty consisting in the harmony of gifts, of vocations, of missions, of ministries; declaring every intervention of God in our history untrue. In this chasm

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of non-truth the mystery of the Incarnation of the Eternal Verb has also been sunk, the Only Son of the Father: today Christ Jesus must be seen as a man equal to all the other men, without any difference.

Once Christ Jesus was the glory of the Church. Today he is becoming a dishonour, somebody one must be ashamed of. There is where the tempters and their temptations have attained: depriving the Church of its heart. A Church without its heart is a Church that can never spread life among men. It is a Church that does not save the humanity anymore and neither its children. Why has all of this happened? Because the children of the Church have let themselves be tempted and have got far from the truth that the Holy Spirit placed in the Word of the Lord. The preaching of the Gospel and of any other Word of the Lord, without the truth placed by the Holy Spirit in them, is the instrument the temptation has used to make us worshippers of lies and falsities. Only in a way one overcomes all these temptations: persuading in the Holy Spirit and believing that only the Word of God is truth and it alone reveals the way of the true life, of light, of peace, of justice. Whoever convinces himself and

believes must then witness with the word and the works that his life is only and totally given to the Word. His life is only and totally obedience to the truth that is in the Word.

On one hand we have a man, Christ Jesus, that gave his life for us, that reconciled us with the Father, poured us of Holy Spirit, made us come to life, and from the other one we only have men that did nothing for us: who must we believe in? The faith must be given to Christ Jesus. Our rationality imposes it. Instead, for us the Gospel does no longer exist. The various thoughts of the men lifted to truth by their mind exist. Without the Gospel, everyone has made himself gospel of his own and of others. One truth remains stable in eternity: the Word of God always fulfils what it says. The history is witness of that. If it says life, it is life. If it says death, it is death. If it says blessing, it is blessing. If it says malediction, it is malediction. If it says eternal life and beatitude, it is eternal life and beatitude. But also if it says eternal death and malediction, it will always be death and malediction. The Word of God is fulfilled in time and eternity. To this word we must give our faith.



IF YOU LISTEN...

Morning Star

In the Book of Sirach the morning star manifests beauty and glory in contrast to darkness, destructions, disasters. In the destroyed, devastated, burned temple, now rebuilt, Simon appears, high priest, dressed in sparkling gowns, glorious. His glory and his beauty attracts every gaze: "How splendid he was as he appeared from the tent, as he came from within the veil! Like a star shining among the clouds, like the full moon at the holyday season; Like the sun shining upon the temple, like the rainbow appearing in the cloudy sky; Like the blossoms on the branches in springtime, like a lily on the banks of a stream; Like the trees of Lebanon in summer, like the fire of incense at the sacrifice; Like a vessel of beaten gold, studded with precious stones; Like a luxuriant olive tree thick with fruit, like a cypress standing against the clouds". (Sir. 5, 10) Much more beautiful and full of eternal glory is the Virgin Mary. She is more than the morning star. She is dressed in the sun with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars upon her head. Are there any greater glory and beauty than these

ones? In the book of Job the star or the stars of the morning reveal how great and amazing are the works of the Lord: "Who determined its size; do you know? Who stretched out the measuring line for it? Into what were its pedestals sunk, and who laid the cornerstone, While the morning stars sang in chorus and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job, 38, 6-7) The Virgin Mary is true work of God: "The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name".

In the second Letter of Peter the morning star is fullness of the glory and of the light of Christ Jesus, compared to the Word of the Lord that is the lamp shining in a dark place: "We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts". (2Pt 1, 19). Mary is that holiest light given to us by Jesus in order that she will always illumine

us on the way leading to the eternal life. In the Book of Revelation she expresses the divine authority: "And to him I will give the morning star". (Rev. 2, 29) The Virgin Mary is omnipotent for grace. The Son has placed everything in her hands. Always in the Revelation, it is Christ Jesus the radiant morning star, the eternal light that must illumine every man. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star." (Rev 22, 12- 21) The Virgin Mary is, for us, the most shining and radiant light of the universe. She is the most shining light of any other light. She has been given to us so that, immersed in this powerful light, we reach the eternal Light. Virgin Mary, Morning Star, wrap us in your light and bring us in the eternal Light.

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FROM JACOB'S WELL

The conversion to the Word in an ever stronger, powerful, saint, universal obedience without ignoring even the smallest precepts is always necessary, urgent. Who must convert to the Gospel every day? Every man. What is the path so that every man might convert? The perfect conversion to the Gospel of every member of the body of Christ. Without his perfect conversion to the Gospel the one who invites misses the historical fundament of the Word that he announces and to whom he asks for conversion. Nobody can preach that Christ Jesus eliminates the sin of the world, if whoever preaches does not show with his life that, really, truly Jesus eliminates the sin. Jesus tells the truth if the missionary of Christ presents himself without sin. He namely presents an entirely evangelic life.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Responses of Faith

Why isn't the Conversion to the Word alone sufficient and why must one always add the daily conversion to the Holy Spirit?

The conversion to the Gospel is universal. Everyone of us must plant into the Gospel, if we want to be disciples of Jesus. However, this conversion alone is not enough. The conversion to the Holy Spirit is also urgent. What does converting to the Holy Spirit mean? It means living our charisma, our ministry, our vocation, our mission always according to its motion and inspiration, according to its heart and will and never according to our heart, our mind, our thought, our will. The baptized must manifest how a true son of God lives. The confirmed how a true witness of Christ Jesus lives. The deacon how a true servant of the charity of Christ Jesus lives. The presbyter how a shepherd of his flock lives. The bishop how a vicar of Christ Jesus lives. The pope how a successor of the Apostle Peter called to love Jesus more than every other disciples lives. How could they do this? Living the particular conformation to Christ Jesus that springs from every received sacrament. Who obeys the Holy Spirit knows that his obedience is unique in all the body of Christ.

The obedience to the Holy Spirit makes us unique in the mystery of salvation and in the body of Christ Jesus, unique before the Father and the Holy Spirit, unique before the entire creation. The uniqueness created in us by the Spirit reveals how false, erroneous, lying, mendacious,

tenebrous is the theory that now is winding among the Christians, theory willing that one abolish any difference in the name of universal equality. We are all equal. We can all do the same thing. Nothing is false. The gifts are particular. The charisma are particular. The missions are particular. The vocations are particular. Even though we are all children of God, everyone is unique and particular before God. Even though we are all witnesses of Christ Jesus, everyone lives his particular, personal mission of witness. Even though we are all deacons, all presbyters, all bishops, everyone has received from the Holy Spirit his particular, personal, specific seal that makes him unique in all the creation and in the Church. Today the body of Christ is sinking in an ever known poverty. It is a poverty of no longer obedience to the Holy Spirit. Without the multiform grace of the Holy Spirit and its multiple gifts, the body of Christ is condemned to die. In order that this never

happens, everyone must convert to the purest and holiest obedience to the Holy Spirit and remain faithful to it for all the days of his life.

What does converting to the Holy Spirit mean? It means living according to its motion and inspiration

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

For until then they had not understood the Scriptures
Unity in the communion and communion in the unity
Health of the sick

I ask for light about the true anthropology taught by the Church. I wish to know at least some of its primary and essential element

Parish magazine. Free distribution. Reflections upon the writings of Mgr. Costantino Di Bruno.

