

Dacci oggi il nostro pane

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SEVENTH DAY

XXII Sunday O.T.
Year C

Noticing how they were choosing the places of honor at the table

Who is the Christian and what is his mission? The Christian is the one who is called to bring the light of Christ Jesus in history, in each history, family, social, economic, financial, scientific, political, military history. Today Jesus is in a Pharisee's house and He notices how every man is seeking ephemeral, vain glory. How one makes his life depend on the place he occupies in a banquet. He immediately intervenes and puts the truth in everyone's heart. The place does not make man. Instead, man gives glory to the place. If man is rich in God, in any place he sits, he will always honour the place with his richness in truth, righteousness, peace. Instead,

if he is filled with vices, he will dishonour the place occupied by him with his pride, lust, wrath, gluttony, envy, sloth, greed, foolishness and ignorance. Foolish by nature is the one who thinks that the place changes his nature, and from nature not brought into truth he makes it become nature of truth. Are you learned? In any place you sit, your doctrine will shine. Are you holy? In any place you sit, you will enlighten the hearts with your holiness. Instead, if are you foolish and ignorant?

Even if you had to occupy the place of honour among men, you will always remain foolish and ignorant.

In the teaching of Jesus, there is another principle that must be highlighted: everything we do must always be done in view of an eternal gain. This is why nothing must be done for a miserable earthly glory. The earthly glory fades away as the dew with the first rays of light. The eternal glory will have no end. Only God can give us this glory and He gives it to us if we have worked for Him. How does one work for Him? Inviting Him in our banquets. How does one invite Him? Inviting the poor of the earth, who are those who

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can never invite us in their turn. We invite them, inviting the Lord. The invited Lord will enjoy our meal and as a reward He will invite us to his eternal table. The earning goes beyond all expectation. If I invite one to be invited in my turn, I do nothing for the Lord. He owns me nothing. Instead, if I invite Him, the Lord, to my banquet, He will invite me to his eternal banquet. My banquet lasts one moment, his one lasts for the eternity. The earning is beyond all expectation.



LAMP UNTO MY FEET

The ear of the Christian

The ear of every disciple of Jesus must perennially be formed by the Holy Spirit to the listening of every Word that has come out, comes out, will come out from the mouth of Christ Jesus in the same way as the ear of Jesus was formed by the Holy Spirit to listen to every Word that had come out, came out, would have come out from the mouth of the Father. Here is what the prophet Isaiah reveals to the ear of Christ Jesus: "The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, That I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; And I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. He is near who upholds my right; if anyone wishes to oppose me, let us appear together. Who disputes my right? Let him confront me. See, the Lord GOD is my help; who will prove me wrong?" (Cf. Is 50,1-11). Here is what the Lord asks the ear of his people:

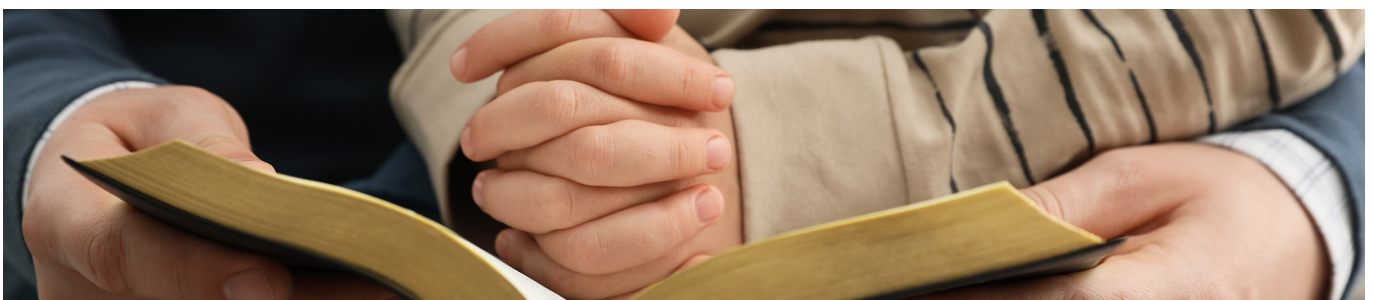
Today man is deprived of true life for he is deprived of every listening of the Lord. What he fulfils, even if he apparently works for life, produces nothing but death

will and capability of listening to his Word. Why are the will and the capability of listening to his Word demanded to the people? Because from the listening and from the obedience to the Word the blessing of the Lord will be poured on it: "Today, if only you would hear his voice, "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did. For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.'" (Psal 95,1-11).

Through the prophet Jeremiah, the Lord reveals that the children of Israel are a nation that does not listen to the Lord. If a nation does not listen to the Lord, it is a nation with no life. God is the life of his people and the life of God descends on his people through the mean of the listening. A nation

that does not listen to the Lord hands itself over to the darkness, to death, to non-life: "When you speak all these words to them, they will not listen to you either; when you call to them, they will not answer you. Say to them: This is the nation which

does not listen to the voice of the LORD, its God, or take correction." (Cf. Ger 7,31-28). When a nation wants to abound with every life, the listening of the Lord must abound in it. The more the listening abounds, the more life abounds. The less the listening abounds and the less life abounds. The listening lacks and life lacks. Today man is deprived of true life for he is deprived of every listening of the Lord. What he fulfils, even if he apparently works for life, produces nothing but death. Jesus teaches his disciples that, if they want to enter the kingdom of God, if they want to live as kingdom of God, if they want to abound of every life, they must build their house on the rock of his Word. The one who does not build on his Word builds his house on the sand. It will collapse to the first drop of water that will fall down the sky. Whoever wants life is obliged to listen to the Word of the Lord. God, in Christ Jesus, is the life of man and this life is given by the listening of his Word. This is why we need the Holy Spirit to form our ear to the listening of Christ Jesus's voice every day.



IF YOU LISTEN...

The Blessed Fruit of thy Womb

This is our hope: contemplating in eternity the face of the blessed fruit of the womb of the Virgin Mary. This fruit is Jesus the Lord, our Messiah and Saviour, our Redeemer and Lord, our eternal life. The men with the great fear of God do not think like that. They know how difficult it is to enter the Paradise after death. Their desire to see Jesus is strong. How to do so that their ambition may be fulfilled? Is there a possible way to follow without any risk? Their great faith suggests them that only one can help them: the Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption. This faith is by them turned into a heartfelt, persistent, daily, with no interruption prayer. They ask Her to be their friend, travelling companion, to take them by hand and lead them through the narrow gate, let them reach the throne of her Son Jesus. Their faith is turned into incessant invocation. Without the help of the Virgin Mary, one might never inherit the Paradise. The path is impassable for every human step.

Nowadays faith is totally deteriora-

ting for it is totally separated from the Holy Revelation and from the bimillennial Tradition of the Church. It is also kept far from the firm teaching of the Fathers and of the great Doctors of the Church. So far it is universal convincement that Paradise is for everyone. Even though one wanted it, one might not even lose it. The Lord will lead him with strength in his kingdom of eternal light. What is today the help we must ask the Virgin Mary? That She delivers us from this convincement of sin and of death and makes us believe in every Word of her Son. Today we must ask the Virgin Mary to show us in this exile the most pure truth of the Word of her Son and gives us the convincement that it is eternally true. What it says is always fulfilled. If we invoke our Mother with endless invocation, She will show us the purity of the truth of the Word of Jesus. We will believe it. We will be convinced of its truth and we will begin that holy journey that will have to lead us to contemplate the Face of Christ the Lord tomorrow for eternity. However, all depends on our endless

invocation. Only the Virgin Mary can deliver us from this convincement of death and of eternal perdition. This is why everyone will have to invoke Her for his conversion and for the conversion of each of his brother. We must overcome, though, that sad falsity that today cries to our ear that there is no need of the Gospel to be saved.

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Paradise*

FROM JACOB'S WELL

The Gospel is not, in Paul, only the Word of Christ according to the Thought of Christ announced in the purity of the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel is the own life of the Apostle Paul. The life of the Apostle Paul is the Gospel for He has made the Gospel become his life. Now, one who makes the Gospel become his life can never act by human, earthly interests. He will always act according to the interests of Christ and of the Gospel. For this reason, one might never turn to him any rebuke and no word neither of reproach nor of blame. If any of such word is said, it is a word arising from the wicked heart of the one who pronounces it. It is a word coming from the heart of Satan, not from the heart of God. The heart of God is not in his heart and the wicked word that comes out of it attests it.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Responses of Faith

How must the mind of the Christian be in order to be able to live the entire Gospel and thus enter the fullness of life? Is the mind of his human nature enough?

The Christian is called to live with the mind of Christ Jesus, making it, through the work of the Holy Spirit, his own mind. Here is the great teaching of the Apostle Paul: "If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil 2,1-1).

If the Christian thinks with the mind of Christ, he will make the thought of Christ his thought

The Apostle Paul attests to the Corinthians that He can be for them Apostle and Teacher, for He lives with the thought of Christ Jesus: "And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms. Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged spiritually. The spiritual person, however, can judge everything but is not subject to judgment by anyone. For "who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to counsel him?" But we have the mind of Christ." (Cf. 1Cor 2,1-16). If the Christian thinks with the mind of Christ, he will make the thought of Christ his thought. What is the fruit of this assumption? He will make the life of Christ his own life. Instead, if he does not take the mind of Christ, always through the work of the Holy Spirit, the life of Christ can never become his life, because the thoughts of the world hate the life of Christ. Either the Christian takes the mind of Christ and his thoughts, or he will always be governed and dominated by the thoughts of the world. May our heavenly Mother help us so that we make the mind of Christ our mind.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish

Mission of Jesus Mission of his Apostles

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary

Why does one affirm that Christ Jesus is the only Redeemer and Saviour of man? Can one state such affirmation, today, in a multi-ethnic and multiracial society?

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

