

Dacci oggi il nostro pane

English version - Free distribution for private use ~ No 5 - Year IV ~ SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2023

SEVENTH DAY

IV Sunday O.T.
Year A

Blessed are you when they insult you

Here is how the Apostles lived this Word of Christ the Lord: "After recalling the apostles, they had them flogged, ordered them to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them. So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. And all day long, both at the temple and in their homes, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the Messiah, Jesus." (Act 5,39-42). For the Apostle Paul suffering for Christ is true grace granted by the Lord: "For to you has been granted, for the sake of Christ, not only to believe in him but also to suffer for him. Yours is the same struggle as you saw in me and now hear about me." (Phil 1,29-30). Here is also the great teaching of the Apostle Paul about the suffering lived for Christ Jesus: "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us" (Rm 8,18). As the way of the cross has led Jesus to the great glory, so it will be for the Christian. The way of the suffering for Christ will lead him to the great glory in

heaven.

Whoever wants to live every insult, every calumny, every slandering, every falsity according to the Gospel in the complete freedom of the heart and of the mind, offering all things for the redemption of his brothers must have the same heart and the same mind of Christ Jesus. This is only work of the Holy Spirit, though. It is only fruit of his growth in us

The beatitudes reveal and show the purity of the Christian freedom in us. It is true freedom when there is complete detachment from earth and from its things

with no interruption. If the Christian does not grow in the Holy Spirit, he will never be perfect imitator of Christ. The beatitudes are for the disciples of Jesus the way to walk so that his new nature, generated by the Holy Spirit in the water of the baptism, may bear every fruit

of good, as Christ Jesus, the Crucified for love of the Father, has done every fruit of good. The beatitudes reveal and show the purity of the Christian freedom in us. It is true freedom when there is complete detachment from earth and from its things. Even a little attachment to earth and to the things reveals that we are not completely free. May the Mother of Jesus help us grow in fullness of the freedom of the Holy Spirit in the imitation of Jesus the Lord.



LAMP UNTO MY FEET

At the service of the mystery of mercy

The mercy of the Father is revealed by the Holy Spirit in every page of the Divine Scriptures. Four texts, two of the Old and two of the New Testament, are enough to enter his mystery: "Then the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; On your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel." (Gen 3,14-15). The serpent will not overcome man. Word of God. The serpent will be defeated by man. Word of the Lord. By grace, fruit of the mercy of the Lord, man can be victorious. Second great grace, fruit of the mercy of the Lord: He gives his Messiah for the delivering from sin and from the slavery of the ancient serpent: "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, Until he

establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops, Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it: I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness." (Is 42,1-7). Here is the mercy of the Father: Gift of the Messiah for our eternal redemption.

The Christian is mercy of Christ if he turns every Word of Christ into his life. As Christ is life of the Father, so the Christian must be life of Christ

Here are two texts of the New Testament. In them, it is revealed how great the mercy of our Heavenly Father is: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his

Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." (Jn 3, 16-18). "And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was

reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him." (2Cor 5,18-21). If the Christian is called in Christ, with Christ, through Christ to be manifestation and fulfilment of the mercy of Jesus, can he live not imitating his Saviour and Redeemer? Can He not be perfect mercy of Christ in the same way as Christ is perfect mercy of the Father? What Jesus teaches his disciples is the transformation in word of his life. The Christian is called to take every word of Christ and turning it into his life. Christ is mercy of the Father for He has turned every Word of the Father into his life. The Christian is mercy of Christ if he turns every Word of Christ into his life. As Christ is life of the Father, so the Christian must be life of Christ.



IF YOU LISTEN...

The Almighty has done great things for me and Holy is his name

The Virgin Mary celebrates, thanks, praises and blesses the Lord for He, the Almighty One, has done great things for Her. She also proclaims the holiness of the name of the Lord our God. Holy is his name. Holiness is the name itself of God. Being the name of the Lord Holy, also his worshippers must be holy. Holy is the name of God and holy will have to be the name of the one who worships the thrice-holy God. God is Holy, rather he is the Holy, the Source, the Spring of every holiness, goodness, mercy, forgiveness, grace, love, faithfulness, charity. God can never do something less righteous or less good. All his works attest this great truth: his holiness. He makes no difference of people, He does not exalt the rich and humiliates the poor, He does not separate and does not distinguish the friend from the enemy, the one who loves Him from the one who hates Him, for His love always pours down every creature. His love is first of all love of redemption, of delivering, of salvation, in the conversion and in the obedience to his Word. It is love

of sanctification. It is love of blessing and of bestowing of every grace. It is love of gift of the eternal life. On the judgement, his righteousness will be acknowledged and confessed as holy even by the ones who have been condemned. They too will cry out that the Lord is the Holy and that it is only for their fault that they find themselves rotting in the eternal death of perdition.

God is the Holy. If He made Mary great, if He has done great things for Her, no one can deny them. Everyone must confess them, for it is in this confession that the truth of the holiness of God is shown in the most beautiful and righteous way. The one who does not confess the great things that God has done for Her is a blind and foolish. He is also a defiler of the Lord's glory. God has made the most excellent in his creation and we do not proclaim it, rather we deny and reject it. When this happens, it is the sign of our spiritual blindness, the fruit of our wickedness and idolatry. For the Virgin Mary, the Almighty One, the Holy, has done great things. Not

only. He has done them unique, unrepeatable. Only in Her, only for Her and for no one else. No one be offended. There has not been, there is not, and there will never be a creature that can be compared, even in minimal part, to the Virgin Mary on our earth. She is the unique Woman, the only Creature raised by the Lord to truly divine heights. She only lacks the divinity of origin, eternal. God has communicated it to Her for participation. She is participant of the divine nature in a unique, only, singular, particular, special way.

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FROM JACOB'S WELL

The knowledge in fullness of truth of Jesus and of his mission of Messiah of the Lord is given by the union of all the ancient prophecies uttered by the Holy Spirit about Him. Today Christ Jesus has been unclothed of every prophecy. We have made Him a man as all the other men. The one who unclothes Christ Jesus of his most pure truth commits sin against the Holy Spirit and moreover he becomes murderer of his brothers, for he deprives them of the light of life. No one is allowed to uncloth Christ of his most pure truth. Not believing in Christ in fullness of truth is already a sin leaving us in death. Denying the most pure truth of Christ and inducing ever man to deny it or to live without it is a greater sin than the condemnation to death of Jesus by crucifixion.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Responses of Faith

Jesus asks each of his disciple to love his enemies and to pray for those who will persecute him. How can we live this commandment?

The Law of the Lord is triple. In the Old Testament there is the Law of righteousness and the Law of holiness. In the New Testament there is the perfect imitation of Christ Crucified and of the full conformation to Him. Both the Law of righteousness, that are the Ten Commandments and the Law of holiness or of love must be lived toward every man, both friend and enemy, both benefactor and persecutor: "Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you. "You shall not kill. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him." (Ex 20.12-17). These are obligations of every man toward every other man. In the Law of holiness everyone is called to imitate the holiness of God that is charity, piety, benignity, love toward everyone: "You shall not go about spreading slander among your kinsmen; nor shall you stand by idly when your neighbor's life is at stake. You shall not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your fellow countrymen. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. You shall treat the alien who resides with you

no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt." (Cf. Lev 19,1-37).

He, Jesus, perfect in love, has given himself as Crucified for our salvation. We, in Him, with Him, through Him, must let ourselves be given by the Father for the salvation of our brothers. We, in Him, with Him, through Him, must give ourselves by the cross for the redemption of every man. The one who is called in Christ to offer himself for the redemption of his brothers can never deny the others his possessions. In the gift of life, every other possession, both spiritual and material that one has, is included. Here is the news of our love: to the beauty of the love of righteousness and of holiness that is commanded by God in the Old Testament, the Christian must add the sublimity of the crucified love of Christ Jesus. The Crucified is the difference between the love commanded in the Old Testament and that commanded in the New. Today and for eternity the Crucified is the truth of our love. A love not in the image of the Crucified is either not love or it is very imperfect love. May the Mother of God always make us of crucified love.

The Crucified is the difference between the love commanded in the Old Testament and that commanded in the New

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

You are the light of the world

One only Model and one only Teacher

His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him

When can a person say to be from truth and why today is truth declared falsity and falsity is raised to truth by everyone?

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

