**And they took offense at him**

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 (Mk 6, 1-6)**

In the Gospel according to Matthew, this is what Jesus says to John’s disciples who came to question him: *"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." (Mt 11,3-6).* This last sentence means: *“Whatever I do, whatever I say, every gesture, word, work, teaching, everything is by the will of my Father. Those who are scandalized testify that they do not know the Father. On the other hand, those who are not scandalized are blessed because they will be able to enjoy the joy of knowing the Father with all the wisdom of truth and doctrine.”* Christ Jesus and the Father are one. The one who is scandalized by Christ is scandalized by God. Who is scandalized by God? Only the one who does not know him. Whoever does not know God can never be blessed. They are not in the light.

In the Gospel according to John, Jesus says that eternal life is the knowledge of the Father and the Son: *“When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.” (Jn 17,1-5).* They are not two separate and distinct knowledge, but a single knowledge. The one who knows the Father knows Christ Jesus. The one who knows Christ Jesus knows the Father. If the knowledge of one thing about one of them is lacking, it will be missing also for the other. If one does not know the Father they will always be scandalized by Christ the Lord.

*He departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith. He went around to the villages in the vicinity teaching.*

The Book of Sirach reveals that scandal on the law, on the truth of God and consequently on the truth of Christ Jesus belongs to the hypocrites: *“He who would find God must accept discipline; he who seeks him obtains his request. He who studies the law masters it, but the hypocrite finds it a trap. His judgment is sound who fears the LORD; out of obscurity he draws forth a clear plan. The sinner turns aside reproof and distorts the law to suit his purpose.” (Sir 32,14-17).* Hypocrisy is wearing a mask of religiosity, proclaimed coming directly from God, while in reality it is tradition and forms that have their origin in the heart of man. These forms almost always obscure, alter, modify, elude, transform, deny the true Word of the Lord. Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees*: “He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.” (Mk 7,6-7).* Those of Nazareth will never be able to welcome Christ Jesus in the fullness of his truth. They live a religion that is not one founded on the true Word of God. They await a Messiah conceived and thought by a human mind. They do not know the prophecies according to the truth placed in them by the Holy Spirit. But we will always be scandalized by those who bring the true Gospel, the true Christ Jesus, the true religion, the true faith. There is an abyss between the two religions, that of the hypocrites and that of the purest faith and obedience to the Word of God. Jesus is the fulfillment in words and deeds of every Word that came from the heart of the Father and that is contained in the prophetic Scriptures. This is His truth.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, be a Christian of pure, true, holy religion.