**Are even you likewise without understanding?**

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10 (Mk 7, 14-23)**

Rationality and discernment belong to the nature of man. In addition, the Lord sends his wisdom so that his faithful can always know what pleases the Lord and what He likes. Thus, the Book of Sirach: *“The LORD from the earth created man, and in his own image he made him. Limited days of life he gives him and makes him return to earth again. He endows man with a strength of his own, and with power over all things else on earth. He puts the fear of him in all flesh, and gives him rule over beasts and birds. He forms men's tongues and eyes and ears, and imparts to them an understanding heart. With wisdom and knowledge he fills them; good and evil he shows them. He looks with favor upon their hearts, and shows them his glorious works, That they may describe the wonders of his deeds and praise his holy name. He has set before them knowledge, a law of life as their inheritance; An everlasting covenant he has made with them, his commandments he has revealed to them. His majestic glory their eyes beheld, his glorious voice their ears heard. He says to them, "Avoid all evil"; each of them he gives precepts about his fellow men. Their ways are ever known to him, they cannot be hidden from his eyes. Over every nation he places a ruler, but the LORD'S own portion is Israel”.(Sir 17,1-14).* Whoever walks in the Word of the Lord and obeys his commandments is always helped by divine wisdom so that he can see the good and do it. On the other hand, when one turns away from the divine Word and disobeys it, then there is corruption even of the nature. Nature gets wrapped by foolishness, ignorance, becoming a bad, evil nature. The more one disobeys the Word, the worse and evil nature becomes. It is like water. The further it moves away from the heat source, the more it cools, until it becomes ice. Whoever wants a good and just nature must remain in the warmth of the Word of the Lord and give it all obedience. Obedience makes us true.

*He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." When he got home away from the crowd his disciples questioned him about the parable. He said to them, "Are even you likewise without understanding? Do you not realize that everything that goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters not the heart but the stomach and passes out into the latrine?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) "But what comes out of a person, that is what defiles. From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."*

Why do the disciples still not understand? Why do they lack the ability to see the good immediately and to follow it? Because they were formed in a religion in which the precepts of men deny the precepts of God and where obedience to men cancelled obedience to God. The same is true of wisdom. The wisdom of the earth darkened the wisdom of heaven. Lacking the true warmth of the Word heard and obeyed, put into practice, their nature was unable to see the light of the Lord, with which one must always separate what is good and what is evil. Jesus is educating, forming his disciples to open themselves to the truth according to his Father. But still the path is long, very long. They need to be renewed in the mind, heart, soul, spirit, body. New creatures must be regenerated and made. But for this it is necessary that the Holy Spirit and the grace of conversion, regeneration, new creation be poured out. However, it is undeniable that by now the disciples should at least have begun to understand the Master. Their misunderstanding reveals how long it takes to get a man to think and see with the eyes of God. Only the Holy Spirit can change a man. But the Spirit is the fruit of the Shepherd who is called to pour it out by shedding his own blood.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us patient until the end in the mission.