**SATURDAY SEPTERMBER 11 – XXIII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles.”**

**Everyone must be a good master for the others, for those who are still on the way of growth and of learning. But who might say to be a good master for the others? How can we recognize if one is a good master and therefore trust him, while conceding no truth to the one we recognize to be an evil master? It is sufficient to look at his fruits. The good master produces good fruits, the evil master produces evil fruits. One might say: I am good even if I produce evil fruits. This is true lie, true alteration of the reality. The one who is good will always produce good fruits. The one who produces evil fruits is bad. As every tree bears fruits according to his nature, so also does man. A good master is such if he produces good fruits. If he does not produce good fruits, he is bad.**

**Here are two examples clarifying with more light what Jesus has already affirmed as general principle. It is truth: one recognizes every tree by its fruit. One might never pick figs from thorn bushes, nor does one gather grapes from brambles. One cannot gather truth from evil masters. One cannot receive the true word of the Lord from evil prophets. If a master is evil – one recognizes his wickedness from his fruits – no one might hope to be able to gather fruits of truth and goodness. Hoping in good fruits from an evil master is a useless, fallacious, harmful, dangerous hope. Everyone is warned. Everyone can save his soul, if he wants. Applied to Christ Jesus this similarity can be translated this way: Jesus is the tree that produces good fruits. These are good fruits of doctrine, truth, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, welcoming, healings, miracles, patience, every goodness. A tree that produces such trees might never say to be a rotten tree. It will necessarily be considered and seen as a good tree. Whoever says it is a rotten tree lies to himself and makes a false testimony to his history. He attests against every evidence what the evidence reveals as goodness, better, supreme goodness. Jesus declares them evil because of the word, always bad, coming out of their mouth. Being they rotten trees, they cannot say good words.**

**Everyone produces according to his nature. The good nature draws good things from itself, it draws goodness. The evil nature draws evil things from itself, it draws evil. What the heart is filled with, its own nature, comes out of their mouth. The mouth is similar in all to a volcano crater. If the womb of the volcano is full of fire, fire will come out of the crater. Instead, if its womb is full of gas, gas will come out of the crater killing everything it meets on its way. Good is the fruit of the good treasure of the heart of man. But also evil is the fruit of the evil treasure of the heart of the person. An evil heart says evil things. A good heart says good things. The only word of man reveals and manifests his heart. If we listen to the word of man carefully, we will always know the nature of his heart. We will know if he is a good or an evil master. We will know if we can trust him or we must avoid him since he is evil and terrible guide of our soul. The word is man, since the word is his nature. From the word, we know the nature of a man.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 6,43-49**

**"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, listens to my words, and acts on them. That one is like a person building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when the flood came, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built. But the one who listens and does not act is like a person who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, it collapsed at once and was completely destroyed."**

**God is the Lord since He can rule our life. He is the Lord since we decided to give our life to Him. He is the Lord since He can rule. Every obedience is owed to Him for our part. If He can command nothing, since we do not obey Him, certainly He is not the Lord for us. If He commands and we do not do what He says to us, even in this case He is not the Lord for us. He is the Lord, but not for us. God feels that He is not respected by his people. People approaches Him without holiness, love, devotion, zeal, obedience. It lives a solely exterior relation with Him. What happens to the one who does not do what the Lord commands and says? Two images will help us understand the teaching of Jesus in fullness of truth. One walks behind Jesus to listen to his words and put them into practice. This is the meaning of the discipleship: listening and putting into practice; listening and obeying; listening and following, realizing, turning everything listened into work. What happens to the one who walks behind Jesus, listens to his words and puts them into practice?**

**This person is similar to a man who built his house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock. The flood came, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built. The solid foundation on rock had prevented the catastrophe. The house remains stable forever. What happens, instead, to the one who walks behind Jesus, listens, but does not put into practice the listened words? This one is like a man who builds his house on earth without laying any foundation. The river bursts against it and it immediately collapses. All the work is lost, because of the great destruction. The reality of the similarity is clear, eloquent. The one who edifies his spiritual house on the rock of God that is his will, his word, will have stable house in eternity. Instead the one who builds his spiritual house on the non-listening of the Word of the Lord will have no stability. A little flood of human thoughts or of temptation bursting against him and here is our ruin and it is great. It is great in time and it is great in eternity. It is a ruin of eternal perdition, forever, far from the Lord. God is the Rock, the only true foundation of our spiritual house. Rock is the name itself of God. Founding our house on the rock is founding it in God, in his listened and observed Word of our life. Founded like this, our life will have an eternal stability. It will never be destroyed.**

**Who will be saved? Today one says that everyone will be saved. This is not the truth Jesus announces to us. The truth of Jesus is very different from the lie that one teaches and professes today. All those who will build their Christian house on the rock of the Word of God, of Christ Jesus, of the Gospel will be saved. What does it mean to build the Christian house on the rock of the Word? It means turning every word of Jesus, the entire Gospel, into our life. It means, in a simple word: living of mercy, compassion, piety, charity, justice, service, forgiveness. Living for the others in the same way as Jesus lived for us. Making the law of charity and of love our only law. It means: not judging, not condemning, not murmuring, never speaking of others badly. Instead, thinking of how to imitate Jesus who is meek ad humble of heart. Making the obedience to Jesus the style, the form, the essence of one’s own existence. Whoever does it will be saved. Whoever does not it cannot think of being saved, since he did not do what Jesus taught so that a man can be saved. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.” May the Mother of the blessed fruit who is Jesus help us become operators of good fruits.**