**WEDNESDAY JUNE 22 – XII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them.**

**The true prophet is the one who says, teaches, refers, brings men the true Word of God. The false prophet is the one who says, teaches, refers, brings men his word and he announces ita s true Word of the Lord. The true and false prophecy do not only deal with the word, but also with the deeds. The false prophet even comes to attribute God’s deeds to devil and the devil’s deeds to God. Here is an example of false prophecy the deeds of Jesus:** “**Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute. He cured the mute person so that he could speak and see. All the crowd was astounded, and said, "Could this perhaps be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man drives out demons only by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons." But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and no town or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself; how, then, will his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges.** **But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. How can anyone enter a strong man's house and steal his property, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Therefore, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. "Either declare the tree good and its fruit is good, or declare the tree rotten and its fruit is rotten, for a tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you say good things when you are evil? For from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. A good person brings forth good out of a store of goodness, but an evil person brings forth evil out of a store of evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will render an account for every careless word they speak. By your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (Mt 12, 22-37) The attribution of God’s deeds is not too far from us. We, too, could attribute to the devil the deeds of God and the deeds of the devil to God. We all can fall into this trap of death.**

**How can we know what words and what deeds are of God and what are of the devil, instead? Jesus offers us an infallible norm: it is enough to observe the deeds or the fruits that a person produces. If the fruits or the deeds are good deeds and they are so when they are most pure obedience to the Commandments of the Lord, then being the tree good, the fruits are good as well. Instead, if the person who speaks is in the transgression of the Commandments, being his nature not good, even his words are not good. Only the good nature produces good fruits. The evil nature might never produce one only good fruit. Yet, such easy rule is not followed by anyone. It is enough to observe a person for one moment and his life immediately manifests his nature. One sees if his nature is good, less good, evil, more evil, wicked, perverse, by satanic thoughts. Jesus has provided us with the way for the sound discernment. It is up to us to apply it. Whoever falls, falls because of his responsibility. One must never blame the one who acted as temptation. Falling into temptation always makes us guilty. We have fallen because of our fault.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 7,15-20**

**"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them.**

**Already in the Old Testament, had the Holy Spirit given this rule not to fall in temptation: “For the sake of profit many sin, and the struggle for wealth blinds the eyes. Like a peg driven between fitted stones, between buying and selling sin is wedged in. Unless you earnestly hold fast to the fear of the LORD, suddenly your house will be thrown down. When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear; so do a man's faults when he speaks. As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace, so in his conversation is the test of a man. The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; so too does a man's speech disclose the bent of his mind. Praise no man before he speaks, for it is then that men are tested.” (Sir 27, 1-7) The word deals with both the words of God and his deeds. When a deed of God is attributed to the devil, it is then that one should fear. Can a deed perfectly reflecting the entire revelation come from the devil? Never. Every word of transgression of the Commandments and every invitation to transgress the Law of the Lord comes from the devil. Instead, if one invites and exhorts to observe the Law, to walk in one’s own truth of prophecy, then this deed is only fruit of the Holy Spirit. Whoever deceive about the discernment and whoever lets himself be deceived are equally responsible. Tomorrow no one might say to the Lord: “I have been deceived.” No one must let himself be deceived. Mother of God, do not let us fall under the word of the false prophets.**