**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14 – THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT [A]**

**And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.**

**Thus the Psalm proclaims the beauty of the Law: “The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” (Psal 19,8-15). Before such beauty, whoever takes offense is the hypocrite. This truth is thus proclaimed by the Book of Sirach: “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).**

**Whoever really, truly fears the Lord is the one who with his life believes in the truth of every Word that has come out of the mouth of the Lord. Let us also read in the Book of Sirach: “Fear of the LORD is glory and splendor, gladness and a festive crown. Fear of the LORD warms the heart, giving gladness and joy and length of days. He who fears the LORD will have a happy end; even on the day of his death he will be blessed. The beginning of wisdom is fear of the LORD, which is formed with the faithful in the womb. With devoted men was she created from of old, and with their children her beneficence abides. Fullness of wisdom is fear of the LORD; she inebriates men with her fruits. Her entire house she fills with choice foods, her granaries with her harvest. Wisdom's garland is fear of the LORD, with blossoms of peace and perfect health. Knowledge and full understanding she showers down; she heightens the glory of those who possess her. The root of wisdom is fear of the LORD; her branches are length of days. One cannot justify unjust anger; anger plunges a man to his downfall. A patient man need stand firm but for a time, and then contentment comes back to him. For a while he holds back his words, then the lips of many herald his wisdom.” (Sir 1,11-21). Whoever fears the Lord, whoever loves his Law, whoever obeys his Word will never take offense at one only precept of the Lord. He knows that they are precepts of truth and of eternal life. Whoever does not take offense at the Law will never take offense at Jesus the Lord. He will know that every Word, every action, every thought, every dialogue, every reply, every miracle is fruit in Christ Jesus of the most pure will of his Father, accepted by Him in the most pure truth, wisdom, understanding, counsel, science of the Holy Spirit, with his piety and fear of the Lord. Now, if everything in Christ is most pure obedience, only a hypocrite can take offense at Him.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 7,19-23**

**The disciples of John told him about all these things. John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" When the men came to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?'" At that time he cured many of their diseases, sufferings, and evil spirits; he also granted sight to many who were blind. And he said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."**

**Saying the Word of God and refer a vision does not mean to understand what one says and what one refers. Between the Word and the vision and their fulfilment in history there is the abyss of the mystery. Jesus is not like John the Baptist, only a Prophet, even if he is the greater among those who are born of a woman of the entire Old Testament. Jesus has the perfect science of his mystery and every knowledge over it. Moreover, the Holy Spirit, moment by moment, prompts Him to give complete fulfilment. We ignore what thoughts John had about the Christ of God. However, we know, from what he sends to ask, that between his thoughts and the mystery of Christ Jesus there is no correspondence. Jesus replies to John that the Scriptures are being fulfilled precisely in that part dealing with the Christ of God, his Messiah. He reveals to him nothing else, for he has revealed nothing else to his Apostles either. It is enough for him to know that the prophecy are being fulfilled. He needs to know nothing else and he does not manifest nothing else. Since John is prophet of the living God, he must know that what he has said about Jesus is most pure truth and it will be fulfilled. How it will be fulfilled is not up to him neither to say nor to know it. The prophet, too, must go through the faith in the Word. If the prophet does not pass through the faith in the Word he says, the risk he incurs is very high. Willing to know the truth contained in each of his word or vision, he might give, both the word and the vision, different contents from those placed by the Lord. Giving different meaning he turns himself into prophet of falsity and not of truth. Here is why the prophet, too, is blessed if he does not take offense at Christ Jesus. He too must go through the most pure faith that word and vision will be fulfilled. May the Mother of God help us always live the way of faith.**