

Readings at Mass – **2 Timothy 4:1-8, Ps 70(71), Mark 12:38-44.**

Now, the disciples must have been baffled at what Jesus said – surely more means more?! The Lord only opened the minds of the disciples to understand the scriptures after His resurrection. Therefore, we know that we cannot grasp a single word of scripture though we might possess all the literature qualifications, though we might have the wisdom to ‘understand all mysteries’ (1 Cor 13), unless God prepares our heart. Prepare our hearts, the centre of our being, to recognise that true love is the aim. “Blessed are those who with a noble and generous heart, take the word of God to themselves and yield a harvest through their perseverance. This good heart is humble, contrite in spirit and has reverence before God’s word. Yes, love for God and our neighbour is that perfect harvest that comes forth.

We see this love for God in the widow who holds back nothing and gives all. Surely, all the giving we who are the rich do, is supposed to make us practice a total self-giving and daily too. Without a clue from me, I am sure you can figure out whom we are imitating - “Became obedient unto the point of death”. This is not merely monetary and should be extended to generosity with our time in prayer of course! Not making a show of lengthy prayers like St. Augustine said, we do not pray to inform God. ‘God, I need this that or the other. I love these words that the mother said to one of the brothers in account of their martyrdom, “I do not know how you came into being in my womb. It was not I who gave you life and breath, nor I who set in order the elements within in each of you” (2 Mc 7:22). A Christ-like suffering, even before Christ! Total giving of self - “my life is already being poured away”.

This is how we refute falsehood, correct errors by others, proclaim the message, whether or not the time is favourable. We cannot close our ears to these words, like those in Isaiah, “do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things” (Is 30:10); acquiring themselves with a whole series of teachings according to their own tastes. We are different, called to turn to the truth – Jesus, recognise His voice and distinguish the cunningness of the devil. To whom it has been given more, more will be asked – let us, who have been given a great deal of faith, keep it. Faith, hope, and charity remains.

Jithin Titto, 6/6/2020