

*Saint James, Apostle*

Readings at mass -

2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Psalm 125(126):1-6, Matthew 20:20-28

Though the external actions of piety and humility is important and must not be neglected, God is examining the humility in spirit. Jesus said, “truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it” (Mk 10:15). Notice how He spoke contrary to the common thinking: ‘the learned and wise stand a better chance’. Of course, we must be aware of the basic teachings and knowledge and by heart prayers etc., but if all of those do not lead us to a child-like faith then there is something wrong. Jesus said, you see how the pagan rulers lord it over others; you are to be different.

Only those who are humble can say, ‘there is nothing different in me. What do I have that I did receive from the hands of the Lord’ (1 Cor 4:7) and because it is a gift, we can never boast about it. “Such an overwhelming power comes from God and not from us”. St. Paul said, “For I know that nothing good dwells within me” (Rm 7:18) – that is all the good works of evangelisation and even the great death of a martyr was all because of Grace. Look at the words of our Lord, “these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted by my Father”, even though He is God.

Only those who are humble can take up their cross of sufferings and tears, carry the seed for the sowing. When we amidst our problems and difficulties, still pass on the seed of faith to the next generation through our great patience and perseverance in charity – we are sowing in anticipation of a great harvest. Like for the Apostles, it will be impossible for Satan or the world or persecutors of the faith to quench this fire inside of us. We can spread in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing Jesus as St. Paul wrote, through our forgiveness, kindness, and generosity for the other’s benefit.