

WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

Readings: Dt 30:10-14
Ps 69:14, 17, 30 - 37
Col 1:15-20
Lk 10: 25-37

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 11, 2010

Word: The Lord's power shall be upon His committed servants.
Theme: The Lord's committed servants carry out works of mercy.
[Compassion]
Promise: *"For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. The descendants of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall inhabit it."* (Ps 69:37)

Reflection:

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus is presenting us with a situation that tests the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit that He graciously gave us during our baptism in water and in Spirit. He wants to know if we can respond with the same mercy, compassion and love as the Samaritan did when faced with a similar situation.

On the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time, we were confronted with the question: ***"Who do you say that I am?"*** I am sure our answer would have been, ***"You are the Christ, the Son of God."*** In today's first reading we are faced with yet another question: How can one know the will of God? Better yet, do we really care what the will of God is? The author of the Book of Deuteronomy gives us a clear hint, ***"If only you would heed the voice of the Lord... when you return to the Lord, your God with all your heart and all your soul."*** But how do we do this? First, in humility, secondly through the word of God in which we Christians have a safe and sure guide. And as we reflect on God's word and pray about it, God reveals himself to us during moments of discernment. In Jer: 33:3 He says; ***"Call on to me and I will teach you all the things you want to know."*** Then there's another way, a very simple method – "listening with our heart" as exemplified by the Good Samaritan. And if our hearts are simple and pure, not blinded by ego, passions and self-serving motives, we would readily know the will of God.

With so many religions nowadays, each claiming to possess the 'truth', we sometimes get distracted and confused. In his letter to the Colossians because of their many conflicting beliefs, Paul assures each of us that Jesus is indeed as Paul describes Him; ***"The image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation... all things were created through Him and for Him... and in Him all things hold together."***

At the time of Jesus, Samaritans were what we today would call 'atheists'. They neither fear God nor man. They have abandoned their belief in God and the traditions left by their forefathers. By our human reckoning, they had nothing to recommend them to God's grace. But that is not the issue here. The issue is us! Again, remember that we are all baptized in water and in the Spirit, and we know what God wants of us, as found in the first reading; ***"No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out."***

How just, merciful, compassionate and loving are we then, toward the ‘Samaritan’ in our lives - the religious zealots, the ignorant, the prostitute, the drug addict, the unwed mother, the unlovable in our family, community, home and society? Are we prepared to help when people cry out for help? Are we ready to help ease their burden? During our WSC or meetings, do we discuss specific problems and what we can do to help solve them, or are we part of the problem, wallowing in our own inner world of resentments and issues? Do we plan to go out on mission, or are we complacent and smug?

Jesus invites us to behave like the Samaritan: **“He saw him, was moved with compassion, went up to the wounded man, bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them, he lifted him up on his mount, took him to an inn and looked after him,”** (Lk 10: 33 & 34). Whether he was aware of it or not, the Samaritan responded with Christ-like instinctive compassion. He no longer obeys his head but his heart. He forgets his business, commitments, religious prejudices, weariness, hunger and fear. He acts immediately, without hesitation. He goes out of the box, so to speak, unmindful of the usual social and religious boundaries of his life.

All of us are being asked to do the same, **“Go and do the same yourself”** (Lk 10:37). Be a neighbor to the person who needs mercy, forgiveness, compassion and love. It goes without saying, it’s not the time to just pray and kneel, but its time to “cast our nets into the deep waters and make a catch” as our directions for the BLD future tells us! We all need to act on our faith!

Prayer:

Lord grant us the grace to get out of our comfort zones and indifference. Bless us with the compassionate and loving heart of Jesus, so that we can risk our lives to go out into the “deep” believing that as we act in faith, we too will gain eternal life from You. Amen.

Suggested Personal Reflection Guide:

1. Are we ready to go out and extend a helping hand to anyone in our community or society? Or do we find excuses to walk on the opposite side of the road and turn a blind eye?
2. Are we willing to make sacrifices – even risk our lives, to bring the gospel of repentance, forgiveness and love of Jesus to others? Or are we content to be just fence sitters?

Next Week’s Daily Mass Reading Guide:

July 12, 2010	Is 1:10-17; Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21 & 23; Mt 10:34-11:1
July 13, 2010	Is 7:1-9; Ps 48:2-3, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Mt 11:20-24
July 14, 2010	Is 10:5-7, 13-16; Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15; Mt 11:25-27
July 15, 2010	Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Ps 102:13-14 & 15, 16-18, 19-21; Mt 11:28-30
July 16, 2010	Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Is 38:10, 11, 12, 16; Mt 12:1-8
July 17, 2010	Mi 2:1-5; Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14; Mt 12:14-21

“Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!”