

Reflection by Fr Euloge Kasine on the Monday of 6th week of Easter

Acts 16: 11-15; John 15: 26 – 16:4

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, you may agree with me that understanding is one of the virtues needed in every sector of human life. Imagine, for example, the happiness that students who are doing mathematics have when they are able to understand what their professor teaches them. Besides, a person who is doing mathematics will love listening to mathematicians and will try to let his mind open to mathematics otherwise he will have serious difficulties in understanding mathematics and might end up in hating mathematics that he wants to know.

I have given this example of mathematics as an example to show how when one needs to know something he should be ready to listen to those who know it. To listen here implies the readiness to welcome. It is in that readiness; it is in that willingness of knowing that the Spirit of truth; that the wisdom of God comes to enlighten one's mind and help him to understand and to be happy. The psalmist rightly says: the Lord delights in his people. He crowns the poor with salvation. Our salvation is what the Lord wants; our salvation is what makes the Lord's happiness. Let us listen to him through his messengers and he will heal our souls and bodies.

In the first reading Lydia had that willingness of receiving the word of God. She listened to what Paul and his companion were preaching and teaching. Scripture tells us that the Lord opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying. Remember, Paul was always aware that he was just a human being like others, and his knowledge on the word of God was limited. In a word, Paul was not an omniscient, but a disciple called to teach what the master, Jesus Christ taught: the gospel of joy and salvation.

Let us remark that even if Paul was just a human being, imperfect and limited in his knowledge on the word of God, he was chosen as a leader of people and a messenger of the Gospel of joy and salvation. With his knowledge Paul helped people to understand the Holy Scriptures and they received God in their lives. In fact, Paul was chosen by God to teach and preach not his own words but the Gospel of healing and life.

People who welcomed Paul and listened to what he said were transformed. People were transformed not by Paul but by the word of truth that Paul proclaimed. Lydia and her household were seized by the truth of the word of God and decided to be baptised and be effective members of the Church of Christ and not the Church of Paul. Paul was a disciple who was leading people to the Master, Jesus Christ. Paul and his companions were witnesses for Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. This is to say as an apostle, Paul showed people the way, the truth and the life that he followed and lived.

Dear brothers and sisters we do give only what we have and what we know. Christians do give what they have and know so that the world may believe in God and thank him for creating and saving the world. The psalmist rightly invites people to praise the Lord, to dance for him and make music with timbrel and harp. As we know only people who are alive can be able to dance and sing for the Lord.

You and I can realise that the reality Coronavirus does not allow people to freely dance and sing for the Lord. We need to fight Covid-19 until it leaves the people of God free. One of the ways out from the calamity of Coronavirus is to be alert, ready to listen to and welcome different advices from experts who are working hard day and night to put an end to Covid-19.

No-one can deny that it is easier to dance and sing for the Lord when people have good health. Different leaders in medicine, politics and the church are concerned about our physical and spiritual health. Let us continue to listen to what they say and advise. I believe with God's help we will defeat Covid-19, the enemy who destroys human life, precious gift received from God. Be alert and know that with God's help humankind will be set free from Coronavirus.

Remember, the Lord takes delight in his people. He crowns the poor with salvation.