

Reflection Monday of Week 13

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today I would like us to meditate on the disciple who follows. Our Church is a church of disciples, witnesses and ministers. We have one master Jesus, the Son of God and our redeemer.

For all the times we failed to be good disciples; for all the times we refused to follow Jesus and be fashioned by Him, we confess and say: Kyrie eleison; Christe elison; Kyrie eleison.

Meditation on: Amos 2:6-10. 13-16; Matthew 8: 18-22

The disciple who follows

You may agree that to be a disciple is to accept to follow a master without any pressure; it is to follow willingly; it is also to trust the master that one follows. One who does not trust can never be a good disciple; he or she will always have a reason not to follow. One of Jesus' disciples said to Him: "Sir, let me go and bury my father first". But Jesus replied, 'Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their dead'"

To us Jesus' words to this man might sound harsh – but we need to put ourselves in the context in order to understand what the man was really saying. When someone in Jesus' day said they wanted to go bury their father, it didn't necessarily mean he was already dead. Instead they really were saying that they wanted to stay with their father until he died – something that might be years away. This man was simply looking for an excuse to avoid becoming Jesus' disciple.

I imagine the man was frightened by the answer that Jesus gave the scribe. "Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests," said Jesus, "but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Isn't frightening to follow and become a disciple of a person who has nowhere to lay his head? Let us be realistic and think. Do you really think that it is easy for one to leave his or her home to follow a person who says he or she is homeless?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, sometimes Jesus' words are hard to understand that is why we always rely on the Holy Spirit who helps us understand the meaning of the message given by our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ. We also trust experts who have a special gift to make us understand the Holy Scriptures. We believe that the Spirit of God works in them.

Remember to follow Jesus Christ is not to escape from one's responsibility. Instead, it is to become a defender of the rights of God and that of the human being.

Allow me here to say that to follow Jesus, as father Emmanuel D'Alzon would say, is also to accept "to eat like one and work like four" (Manger comme un et travailler comme quatre). In other words, to follow Jesus is to be prepared for sacrifices for the well-being of all. We wouldn't lose sight that Jesus' call has not changed. Jesus says: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

A good disciple of Jesus follows and trusts in God's providence.