

Reflection for Wednesday Week 11 Fr Euloge Kasine

Kings 2: 1. 6-14; Matthew 6: 1-6. 16-18

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ, I would like us today to meditate on A life lived in secret out of love. By a life lived in secret out of love, I mean a life without hypocrisy and a life which does not parade its good deeds before people to attract their notice. "Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice," says the Lord.

For all the times we failed to act out of love but instead we paraded our good deeds before people to attract their notice, we confess and say: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Meditation on: A life lived in secret

"Be careful," said Jesus Christ, "not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice; by doing this you will lose all reward from your father in heaven." This makes us understand that our God is not a God who shows off. He is a God who acts out of love in order to save his people. The Lord our God calls us to faith. He invites us to believe and be committed to what we believe so that the world may believe.

Therefore, it makes no sense at all to do things in order to win men's admiration. Whatever we do as Christian believers, we are called to do it for the glory of God and the well-being of his people. This should be done out of love. When the glory of the ego becomes the motive of all actions, then there is the risk of working for one's own glory rather than working for the well-being of the people of God and the great glory of God, the master and creator of all things.

So Jesus, the son of God and our elder brother advise us in these terms: "When you pray, do not imitate hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them" By the way why do we pray? We pray because we trust in God's mercy and love and we are convinced that God is the one to help us to be good and to go about doing good as his son Jesus Christ, our elder brother who went about doing good: healing the sick, defending the innocent and promoting life as a gift from God. The acts of the Apostles highlight it beautifully in these words: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" (Cf. Acts 10: 38).

The person who is with God does not do things in order to please himself or herself; he / she does things in order to heal people from different diseases. A disease may be physical, moral or physical. In order to be true servant of God, we need to be humble and learn to be disciples of Jesus, our Lord and our saviour. We need also to learn from people like Elisha who asked for the double spirit of his master Elijah in order to be a true servant of God; a servant who defends the rights of God and of his people.

What can I do for you before I am taken from you?, asked Elijah. Elisha answered: "Let me inherit a double share of your spirit". As Christians, disciple of Jesus, we need to ask to inherit a double spirit of Jesus who will teach us how to live without parading our good deeds before people to attract their notice. Jesus says: do not be like hypocrites who do things in order to win men's admiration. We are called to do the will of God from our Heart out of love.

A life lived in secret is a life lived with love; it is a life which does things out of love. When you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.