

Reflection for Feast of St John of the Cross Br Adams

Saint Luke portrays the disciples as those who dwell and remain with Jesus. Those who follow Jesus no matter what. Therefore, in order to become a disciple of Jesus-Christ we ought to leave things behind. We ought to give up all our possessions. The Question then shall be, what are our possessions. What are those we own and have to give up in order to become truly disciples of Jesus-Christ. Possessions in the common sense, tend to make us think of material possessions like Money, cars, homes, etc...However, do we really possess material goods? Your money can be taken away from you by someone else, your cars can be taken away from you as well. Your homes too, are not truly your own.

What is then you possess that nobody can take from you. Saint Paul gives us a clue. In his letter to the Galatians 5:19-21, he says: "Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like."

Your possessions are those, given to you by your flesh. It is your desires. From where come all sorts of will. Nobody can take them away from you against your will. Not even God.

When Jesus says you must hate your beloved ones to follow me; He is certainly saying that, if you have to choose between the desires of flesh and me; choose me! In that way, we understand that if by loving my own, I nurture the desires of flesh, I must turn away from them and choose to love Jesus-Christ. People who have positions or responsibilities for instance, practice or are inclined to corruption in order to favour relatives.

Paul continues saying; "I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." For Him, those who belong to

Christ have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. These are the true disciples of Jesus-Christ. They live in the Spirit and also follow it.

It is certainly the case of John of the Cross whom we are recalling today. John schematized the steps of mystical ascent; a self-communion that in quietude leads the individual from the inharmonious distractions of the world to the sublime peace of reunion between the soul and God. In being his disciple, you will certainly become one to God and therefore you will certainly achieve the perfect discipleship.

Amen