

## **Reflection for Thursday of 1<sup>st</sup> week of Advent Br Adams**

Jesus is telling us today: “It is not those who say to me, “Lord, Lord,” who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.”

In Jn 20:27; Jesus said to the Apostle Thomas: “Stop doubting and Believe”. This injunction exemplifies one of the most fundamental doctrines of the Christian religion: our eternal salvation depends on our voluntary faith in God. Faith follows a decision to believe. This presupposes that belief can be voluntary. If the belief is voluntary, then it is never in spite of it, that a person believes or does not believe. This makes that person, whether guilty before God, or responsible, both for her/his belief and her/his unbelief. Who does not believe, does not want to believe. That is why Jesus is saying that many who say “Lord, Lord”, will not enter the Kingdom of heaven. May be because they chose to not believe while saying those words. Or, may be because whatever those people do in the name of our Lord is in fact to fulfil their own interest. From then on, on the Day of Judgment, unbelief will be found guilty. We could pay the price of not having made the right decision to believe. The sin of unbelief would be a bad decision.

What is the point of entering the Church for those who want to build on the sand? They listen to the word of God but do not put it into practice; they build, but on the sand. If they did not listen, they would not build; they listen, so they build. But on what foundation? If they listen to the word of God and put it into practice, it is on the rock; if they listen and do not put it into practice, it is on the sand.

If you just listen without putting into practice, you build a ruin... If you do not listen, you remain homeless, and you will be swept away by the torrent of tribulation. Without a home you are subject to torments, moral hardships and afflictions.

Be sure therefore, brethren: whoever listens to the word without acting accordingly does not build on the rock, she/he has no relation to the great name of Peter to which the Lord has given so much importance.