

*Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...*

## **BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART**

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Mahatma Gandhi had porcelain dolls of three monkeys by his bedside. It was presented to him by some Chinese visitors. Since Gandhiji's days, these dolls became popular in India. The theme the monkeys explain is a typical Indian one.

See no Evil, Hear no Evil and Speak no Evil. Every Indian mother tells her children the same thing almost every day. Encyclopedias say that it originated in China and at present Japan has a temple with the figure of these three wise monkeys in Nikko. The Japanese call these monkeys \*Mi Zaru (see no Evil), Kika Zaru (Hear no Evil) and Iwa Zaru (speak no Evil). \*This message beautifully advices to look for and adopt only good things in life. Don't be negative. Never rely on gossips. Don't act just by listening something from someone. Don't be a part of waste discussions. Never abuse anyone. Always speak the truth, no matter how hard it is. Be wise in speaking. The message of the three monkeys also has much to do with the \* Triple Filter Test \* which refers to an anecdote of the great Greek philosopher Socrates. \*Truth, goodness and usefulness\* are the foundation of the Socrates' triple filter test. According to him, people must ask themselves the following questions before they say anything.

“Am I sure that what I am going to say is true?

Is what I am going to say is a good thing?

Do I really need to say it and is it useful?”

This triple filter test is an excellent guide for both what we are going to say and for what we are going to listen to. It's a set of parameters that represent healthy and constructive communication.

What emerges from the story is, the first and foremost, the need to keep our spirit always pure.

We must be prudent with what we say, wise with what we listen to, and skilful with what we look at. These are the three guidelines to peace and happiness.

As we commemorate extra ordinary Mission month let us be prudent as serpent and innocent like dove. Recently I visited missionaries and some of the mission areas at Tripura. I am so happy as well as admire the zealous and daring enthusiasm of our missionaries to proclaim the word of the Lord in the present adverse situation keeping in mind the above said points. May God bless all the missionaries and their ministries.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8.

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