

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Wednesday, 2 October 2019
Gospel: Mt 18:1-5,10 (Latin Rite)

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Today we live in a world of tickets and passes. For any mega event, irrespective of its nature and venue, the audience needs an entry ticket or pass. To obtain this entry ticket or pass people have to fulfil certain conditions. The same way the gospel of the day clearly tells that those who want to enter the Kingdom of Heaven need an entry ticket. It is not at all a free ticket. But people do not have to spend money for this entry ticket but need to cultivate certain values and habits to be eligible for entering the Kingdom of Heaven. In today's gospel passage, Jesus very vividly speaks about the habits and qualities required to enter in to the Kingdom of Heaven. A child-like attitude is the entry pass to the Kingdom of Heaven. A child who never doubts any one, a child who never betrays anyone, a child who forgives and forgets within no time, a child who trusts everyone, etc., is worthy of Kingdom of Heaven.

A small anecdote on digits throws light upon the theme. One fine morning, number nine suddenly thought that he is superior to number eight and to show his superiority he went and slapped number eight. It was a huge shock to number eight as one of his family members, number eight, slapped him for no reason. But number nine clarified telling, "I am number nine and you are number eight. I am one step ahead of you." Number eight immediately went to number seven and slapped him, and number seven slapped number six and it went on like that. Finally, number two slapped one and now the number one thought why should I slap zero which has no value. Then, number one meditated for a while and took zero and kept it to his right side and then number one became number ten. Then, number ten looked at number nine and smiled because even number ten could slap number nine as per his logic and policy. But he did not do that because he understood the value and dignity of high position and status.

Nobody can become the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven by slapping, bullying and even ignoring others but can become the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven by accepting, appreciating and accommodating others with an attitude of humility. This 'Three A's with humility is the back bone to our Christian Mission. Wherever Christian missionaries have succeeded in sowing the seeds of Gospel values, everywhere without doubt we can say that there are heart-touching stories of true sacrifice to the extent of becoming a zero in the beginning and, then, becoming great heroes of faith in the future in various missions all over the world only with the support of such great values and never ever with the worldly norms. As we are observing this month as extraordinary missionary month, let us keep the qualities of a child close to our heart and become true missionaries in our own context, making it God's Kingdom accepting, appreciating and accommodating others irrespective of whatever they are...

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