

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Saturday, 5 October 2019

Luke 10:17-24

Fr. Paulson Muthipeedika CMI

There is always joy in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. When Jesus had sent his disciples, he had asked them not to take a purse, beggar's bag, shoes etc. They were sent with bare minimum, without much provision for the journey. But they came back rejoicing. When one takes a difficult journey for sharing the message of Jesus Christ, even when there are hardships, he/she experiences joy.

The other day Sr. Reema FCC who had worked for three years in Mao diocese in Arunachal Pradesh told me that they used to quite often walk three- four hours to reach some of the out stations of the parish, sometimes falling on the way many times due to the slippery narrow paths. But they always felt a lot of joy to see about 300-400 people eagerly waiting for them in the church. These people would care for them like their own. Yes, when we are filled with the eagerness to share the message of Jesus, the hardships are not an issue. It all leads us to great joy. Last March - May I was at our mission station at Tuting in Itanagar diocese of Arunachal Pradesh. There we used to go the out stations on motorbike. Once I along with Fr. Cijo Chakkeri CMI, the Parish Priest of Tuting went to Nigging 20 kms away from Tuting. The roads are very bad and narrow. It took about two hours to reach a stretch of 20 kms. Though the journey was quite hard but when we were received well by the villagers, we forgot all the struggle and pain we had to negotiate the roads. Fr. Cijo went further 15 km to offer mass in another out station and I stayed over at the village for the evening. We had rosary and prayers with about 25 people from the village. Next morning about 40 people came for the Sunday mass. It was an experience of great joy for me.

The name of Jesus is such a great name that evil spirits and powers that be, cannot withstand it. In Mt 1:21 we read, "you will name him Jesus - because he will save his people from their sins. It is in this name of Jesus that the disciples were casting out the demons. In Acts.3:6 Peter and John had healed the lame man saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth I order you to get up and walk." When we had our last annual retreat from Fr. Rudolf Rodrigues of Anugrashram, in Bareilly diocese in UP, he had narrated a true story. Many Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims come to his Ashram. They are being healed of many of their diseases and infirmities. Fr. Rudolf used to heal them in the name of Jesus Christ. Once a 10 class Sikh boy was going to his school. In the street corner he saw a man with epilepsy struggling with his entire body staggering and a lot of surfing on his mouth. There were many people around him but nobody could give relief to him, though many tried very many things. Then this Sikh boy said, "I can heal this man". The crowd asked him to do so. He stepped forward and said to the man on the ground, "In the name of Jesus Christ I heal you". And all of a sudden, the man with epilepsy was healed and became quite normal. Fr. Rudolf told that this boy was not a Christian, but he used to come to the Ashram and seen how sick people were being healed in the name of Jesus Christ. He just tried the name of Jesus Christ and the man with epilepsy was cured. The name of Jesus can certainly work great miracles. In Acts 4:12 we read, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." So, when we work in the name of Jesus Christ, we certainly have great joy and even the demons will obey us.

Of course, we should not seek after our own name and fame and glory. Our real joy should be that our names are written in heaven. If we seek our personal glory, then nothing will happen even if we take the name of Jesus. And this seems to be one of our weaknesses. We just have a small experience of healing and we starting gloating over it as if it happens because of our own power and ability. It all comes from the name of Jesus Christ, not our name.

Really many prophets, kings and sages longed to see what the disciples saw and experienced in Jesus Christ. Our sages prayed - lead me to truth from untruth, from darkness to light, from death to life. And in Jn 14:6 Jesus tells us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" And in Jn 8:12, "I am the light of the world". Yes, certainly this Jesus who is the truth, the light and the life whom the sages of India were seeking and longing to see. It is our sacred duty to tell our country men and women that Jesus is the Truth, the Light and the Life.

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