

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Monday, 14 October 2019

Lk 11:29-32

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The gospel of the day brings to us the painful expression of Jesus Christ, who speaks about the rejection of the people who were demanding a sign from Jesus. Lack of faith in Jesus is as equal as rejection of God himself. So Jesus warns them about their grave sin.

In this passage Jesus also speaks about the privilege and responsibility. The great privileges that the people of Israel and the people of Nineveh received would have been meaningless had they not repented. Israel had Solomon, a wise king as their sign to differentiate good from evil. Again the people of Nineveh had Jonah as their sign. As they were ready to repent listening to the preaching of Jonah, as the word of God, they received the forgiveness and mercy from God. They responded well to the privileges given to them, with the fulfilment of the expectation from them.

At the time of Jesus, Jesus was the sign from God for them. But unfortunately they didn't realize that. That is why they were still demanding for a sign from Jesus. It provoked Jesus and he replied saying; "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks a sign but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah." We the three days Jonah remaining in the belly of the fish spewed him out on the third day to the dry land. Here Jesus is referring to his own death and staying in the tomb for three days and his resurrection, which is the greatest of all the signs. But they were disregarding the Divinity of Jesus, in spite of his continued invitation to repentance.

Our life is filled with the abundance of the interventions of God. But we seldom bother them as the generosity that we receive from the goodness of the Lord. We even close our eyes towards it and take everything for granted. In the first reading St. Paul says all of us are called and we need to respond well to this call by always belonging to Jesus.

In Ghana many a time I felt disappointed over one thing, that even after several reminders and invitation to the sacrament of confession these people do not feel the need of confession. Even we provide them with local priests to convey the message of God's mercy and forgiveness in the local dialect, and make these priests available for confession, very few prepare for it.

We are invited to empty our stubbornness and be humble enough to accept Jesus Christ, the supreme saviour within our hearts. For this grace let us pray in this Divine Liturgy. Amen.

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