

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

16 October 2019

Wednesday of the 28th Week of Ordinary Time

Rom 2:1-11; Lk 11:42-46

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The first reading presents the Jews so easily accusing the pagans of immorality, reclining the conviction of being better than others because of their total observance of the Law. But the Apostle shows them how they lost the way, because they trust too much in the flesh and not in the Risen Jesus. The same pitfall awaits a missionary who looks down onto others and ridicule them for their state of being, rather than trying to lift them up. The certainty of being right and the arrogance of thinking oneself to be the sole defender of truth and morality (the Law) can lead to contempt for God, considering his mercy as weakness, and to the false exclusion of others from salvation.

In V.11 St Paul says “there is no impartiality with God”. But our missions turn out to be a business of partiality often, where we want to serve only those who abide by us. But Jesus came to this world for all. Our Father in heaven is one “who causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” (Mt 5:45). So he has no partiality on anyone.

The Gospel today opens with Jesus continuing his confrontation of the Pharisees. Jesus is extremely irritated with the Pharisees. He accuses them of paying their tithes simply to “look good” rather than acting out of love of God and/or love and concern for their neighbour. Jesus directly confronts them. Jesus makes it very clear what he thinks of them.

Today Jesus also is challenging each of us to examine why we do what we do! Do we do it simply because it is expected of us? Or do we act in a certain way because we want others to think well of us? Or do we choose to do something because it is the “loving” thing to do? As we continue our day today affairs, may we be mindful of our motivations.

Jesus accuses them, for they forget the essentials of the law and focus on the unimportant matters. He likes to remind that our missions become failure when we too shift our focus from the ‘essentials’ to the ‘least important’.

Often our ‘missions’ becomes burdensome for others when we shift our focus from the needs of the people to cater our dreams and talents.

Let us pray that today and every day that all our actions will flow from our love for God and our love for God’s people!

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