

*Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...*

## **Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

XXX Week of the Ordinary Time

Rom 8:26-30; Luke 13:22-30 (Tomorrow never comes if we refuse to do something today.)

Fr. Jomi Pathukulangara CMI, Ghana

Today's gospel passage brings us a great warning for all the listeners of Jesus. He says, "Enter by the narrow door, for many I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able." The life of a disciple is never easy. Jesus was trying to make them aware that though the salvation is a free gift, no one will receive unless he or she responds to it well. By this Jesus gave a strong reminder to all the Jews who thought that they are the chosen people and also the heirs of the Kingdom. Anyone who focuses on salvation should always strive hard to attain it.

Verse 25, clearly states that there is a time limit for the opportunities given to everyone. The stubbornness of the Jews simply kept them outside the kingdom and never did they repent to turn away from their stubbornness. They thought they were above the qualifications which Jesus presented before them to enter the kingdom. They thought by being the descendants of Abraham they were already a group that has the right for salvation.

Today Jesus reminds us to be prepared and strive hard. The opportunities given to us will be limited as we do not know when the master chooses to close down the door.

A few years ago I was serving our parish as an assistant to Fr. Benoj Makkolil CMI, who was the Parish Priest. There were few mass servers in the parish who were so efficient and committed that we could just leave the priest house and the church for them to look after in our absence. One day we had to attend a funeral ceremony in another parish. We left our church in the morning and as we came back, the lady who was cooking for us brought one of the mass servers saying that the boy was found in the office of the parish priest in his absence. When asked 'why' he had to agree that it was for stealing some money. He confessed he was stealing for paying his school fees. But Fr. Benoj was annoyed as he would have been ever ready to pay had he informed him. When asked why he didn't tell him about it, he also confessed that a few weeks back he happened to enter in father's private room. From there he found the office key and every Sunday afternoon when father takes rest he enters the office to pick some amount. Father did not notice that. When he knew no one was noticing it he kept on picking it. Each time he enters the office he would decide it be the final time but that final time never happened. And at an unexpected time he was caught.

We too do not know when our master closes the door, when he chooses to stop the opportunities he gives to us. Our time is limited. Tomorrow never comes if we refuse to repent today. We can't take things for granted. Our familiarity with the Church or our relationship with church leaders or even the knowledge of the doctrines would not help us to become worthy to enter the Kingdom. But our intimacy with the Lord and the constant response to the promptings of the spirit only will make us prepared. There is nothing called 'holiday' in Christianity or spirituality. We need to keep on fighting. So that we may not be rejected by the Master. May our constant struggle, keep us prepared always. Amen.

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