

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Wednesday, 30th October 2019

XXX Week of the Ordinary Time

Rom 3:31-39; Luke 13:31-35 (With God we are heroes and without God we are zeros)

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As we are on the last day of the Extraordinary Missionary Month through the passage of the day Jesus enlightens what should we expect when we take up our mission and how should we respond to it. Jesus was well aware of his mission and what is the end of his mission because he had an intimate relationship with his Father. He was always submissive to his father's will. That brought him convictions and clarity about his mission which would no way can be affected or distorted by anyone or anything. That's why the threat in his mission in Galilee (Herod seeking to kill him) doesn't bother him much. Jesus, on the other hand, rebukes him and boldly announces his mission in the Galilee. Through his mission of driving out demons and healing he was literally establishing the Kingdom of God. He knew God the Father was with him always. That brought him a special strength and courage. We also see Jesus expressing disappointment over the stubbornness of Jerusalem in spite of the generosity and love of the Father. We see Jesus often gets hurt over the stubbornness and rejection of many.

Our life as a missionary disciple draws a lot of inspiration from Jesus. He is the missionary par excellence. The list of a missionary disciple should always have a close relationship with the Lord. We get convictions and clarity over our mission through our constant intimacy with him. We should get equipped with strength and courage from the Lord to confront all the threats and inconveniences. The great conviction that 'the Lord is always with us' drive us to win over all our struggles. Just as St. Paul says in the first reading, "If God is with us who shall be against us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We the Ghanaian missionaries don't face any persecutions or threat of life in proclaiming Jesus Christ as Ghana is basically a Christian country. At the initial years I struggled a little in adjusting to the food habits of the Ghanians. Language too was really a problem for me. But the real threat as I see now is the emergence of different denominations like Pentecost, Methodist, Presbyterian, Assembly of God churches. Their influence on the people is really alarming. Many drop out of the Catholic Church and are vibrant in those denominations. I see this as the present threat as a missionary here in Ghana. But I am hopeful that in His time He will make everything beautiful and in tact. With God we are heroes and without God we are zeros.

Let us open our hearts to him by being intimate with him and respond to his promptings so that he may fill us with his convictions clarity and strength to establish his Kingdom wherever we are. Amen.

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