

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Thursday, 10 October 2019

Mal 13:13-20; Lk 11:5-13

“There is no such thing as unanswered prayer.”

Fr. Jomi Pathikulangara CMI

The gospel passage reminds us the fact that God’s generosity is everlasting. But through persistent prayer we get greater faith-clarity and depth in our petition. Jesus gives us a promise in the gospel passage; “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be open to you.” This is the heart of the heavenly father who is always ready to shower his gifts upon his loving children in their needs. But God looks in to the status of our hearts as we read in the book of Prophet Malachi through the first reading of the day. He says, God listened and heard those feared the Lord. God reveals him that, ‘They, who fear the Lord, will be mine, on the day when I act. I will have mercy on them as a father has mercy on his son who serves him.’ Through the first reading we get the idea that our prayers and supplications will be heard by the Heavenly Father if we have the fear of the Lord.

Fear of the Lord doesn’t consist in the fear of punishment, but it is the reverence and adherence to the will of the heavenly Father. Our Father in heaven knows what we need best even before we ask him. As he knows our situation, our past, present and future, he can know what is best for us. There is no such thing as unanswered prayer. Even if the answer of the prayer is no, still it means it is answered or responded. The answer given may not be the answer we desired or expected, but even when it is a refusal it is the answer of the love and the wisdom of God. And certain prayers are answered not that quickly. But our persistent prayer will give us patience and depth in our faith to wait for the time of God. God, who is our loving Father and who knows us through and through will surely let us not be disappointed. If we have this attitude in our relationship to God, then we will be able to be submissive to his will promptly. And that itself is the fear of the Lord.

At his audience on 11 June 2017 Pope Francis reflected on fear of the Lord: “This is the fear of God: abandonment into the goodness of our Father who loves us so much. This is what the Holy Spirit does in our hearts: He makes us feel like children in the arms of our Daddy, with the wonder and joy of a child who sees himself served and loved by his Father.” Therefore, this great gift of the fear of the Lord allows us to have an intimate relationship with the Holy Trinity.

This is why Jesus terms the gift of the Holy Spirit as the greatest gift, “how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.” When the Holy Spirit comes, He will empower us to be more submissive to the will and goodness of the heavenly Father. So, in simple words fear of the Lord which is generated in a person by the Holy Spirit helps us to wait patiently for the time of the Lord in everything. So, we will never be disappointed in spite of our persistent prayer but will wait hopefully.

Here I continue to remember with great pride, the persistent prayer our fathers here in Ghana practiced in spite of their struggles, desperate situations and helplessness of their pioneering works in the mission land. In many of the occasions

God seemed to be quite but they didn't quit. They waited for the time of the Lord and reward they reaped for it.

May this Holy Eucharist empower us for the persistent prayer practicing the virtue of the fear of the Lord, thus we may experience the intimate relationship with the Holy Trinity. Amen.

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