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IN THE GREAT CONTINENTAL MISSION WITH THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

LECTIO DIVINA

Sunday XX in Ordinary Time Year C

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FIRST READING: Jeremias 38, 3-10

PSALM: Psalm 39, 2-4.18

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12, 1-4

Invocation of the Holy Spirit:

Lord God, here we are about to open the Sacred Scriptures, we ask your Holy Spirit, the same one that inspired the sacred authors to leave your Holy Word reflected in the Bible. Thank you Lord, for your communication with us. May we understand what You want to say to us today in our life. Holy Spirit, come to our help, come and open our minds and hearts so that we may understand what you want to tell us. Lord may I not be deaf to your Word and may I know how to listen and be obedient.

Amen

BIBLICAL TEXT: Luke 12, 49-53

“Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth?”



12, 49: I have come to bring fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!



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12, 50: But I have a baptism to undergo, and what anguish I feel until it is finished!
12, 51: Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.
12, 52: From now on, in one house five will be divided: three against two, and two against three.
12, 53: They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BIBLE

1. - READING: What is the text saying?

Bible Study

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Luke 12:49-53

This Sunday presents us the theme of judgement. The essential part of a trial is to distinguish between the innocent and the guilty, between the good and the bad, between what's convenient and inconvenient, between the enduring and the perishable. For this reason the judgment in the Bible is often presented as a product of fire: fire is in charge of destroying what does not work and the dirty. The contaminated objects in the Old Testament could be purified by fire, when water is not enough. That is how John Baptist distinguishes between his baptism by water and the baptism by the Holy Spirit and the fire that will come, Luke 3:15-18. Paul talks of the judgment of our works by fire, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

The first reading presents to us the prophet Jeremiah, who caused a division among his people. Most people didn't discern the threat Babylon posed. They believed the words of the false prophets that God had not sent. These prophets who assured that there would be wellbeing, that Judah would be safe from the Babylonians, that the Egyptians, would help. These false prophets prophesied for a salary, for money, they didn't tell the truth, they didn't have true interest for the people in their heart. However, Jeremiah had been sent by God as contradictory man, foreshadowing the destruction, exile, defeat of the unfaithful army of Judah. That's why they accused him of betrayal, of "loosening the hands of soldiers" (demoralize, discourage). From humanities point of view, "patriotism" is good, we need social cohesion. From the divine point of view, it's the truth that sets us free, albeit hard and causes division. This is how you know how things really are, who is who., As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:19. In the end, Judah was defeated by the Babylonians, the temple was razed, and went into exile, as Jeremiah had prophesied. But when he said it beforehand, they did not believe him.

Jesus himself speaks of the fire , the fire of a great test , which will show us who he is. As the wise man had already said, that to the righteous the wicked would test him, that they had to see how he would die,



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to see if he was really the son of God, Sb 2: 17-20 . The suffering righteous would be tested as metals are tested in the crucible , Sb 3: 6 . Jesus' passion was what made him the " faithful witness, " Rev. 1: 5.

Interestingly, this test holocaust of Jesus type, with fire, is also described as a baptism in our gospel this Sunday . Christ tells us that there must be fire, fire that judges, that purifies, that turns on the earth. And peace will only come through the fire when everything corrupted disappears, the polluted, what doesn't work. With judgment comes the division, so that the truth can be revealed, and those who are part of the truth.

Questions to remember and reconstruct the text:

1. Jesus, what did he come to earth to bring? And, what did he desire?
2. Why did he have to pass? And
3. What did he feel?
4. What does he say after: "Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth?"?

2. - MEDITATION: What does God tell me or us in the text?

Let us ask some questions to deepen our understanding in the Word of Salvation:

The Word of God for this Sunday is quite strong. We are not always accustomed for Jesus to speak so directly and to cause us these impressions. But it is good to do some questions to see what the Lord want to tell us today.

1. When I perform any action, do I want, their approval and support? ¿Even if this means not telling the truth?
2. To what extent do I disguise the things I say to what people want to hear and won't criticize me?
3. Do agree with Jesus that discipleship to which he invites me, implies a change from the roots and so I have to be necessarily evangelical? Possibly this will bring me many complications.
4. What are the things, actions, places that I frequent, that I should change, leave, break free from?
5. Could I make a list of these things, people, places...
6. If we analyze the biblical text where Jesus promises the fire that purifies, such as working with precious metals placed in the crucible the gold, for example, what would the fire symbolize? And what would change in me with the presence of the Holy Spirit?
7. Many times I am very accustomed to a lifestyle, and some things of this style do not match the gospel of the Lord. Can I present them to the Lord so that He may purify me?
8. How far am I willing for a purification?



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9. Do I understand that God's judgment comes for me and not for me to have a new weapon against those who do not feel Christians? The Lord gives the judgment to me so that may analyze in me my process of disciple and missionary.

3. - PRAYER: What do I or we tell God?

Praying is to respond to the Lord who speaks to us first. We want to hear his Redeemable Word. This Word is very different to the one the world offers us and it is the moment to tell the Lord something.

We can direct ourselves to the Lord with an action in appreciation for his healing and repairing Word.

Thank you Father for sending us your only Son, Jesus Christ. He speaks the truth, even if it hurts .
Because we are still far from the truth.

We ask you to send us the Holy Spirit to purify us, to cleanse us, to take everything that prevents us from being your disciples.

We can make Psalm 51 ours, asking God with the words of the Psalmist:

51, 3: Have mercy on me, O God, in your love. In your great compassion blot out my sin.

51, 4: Wash me thoroughly of my guilt; cleanse me of evil.

51, 5 For I acknowledge my wrongdoings and have my sins ever in mind.

51, 6: Against you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight, I have done. You are right when you pass sentence; and blameless, in your judgment.

51, 7: For I have been guilt-ridden from birth; a sinner from my mother's womb.

51, 8: I know you desire truth in the heart; teach me wisdom in my inmost being.

51, 9: Cleanse me, with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

51, 10: Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

51, 11: Turn your face away from my sins and blot out all my offenses.

51, 12: Create in me, O God, a pure heart; give me a new and steadfast spirit.

51, 13: Do not cast me out of your presence nor take your holy spirit from me.

51, 14: Give me again, the joy of your salvation; and sustain me, with a willing spirit.

51, 15: Then I will show wrongdoers your ways and sinners will return to you.

51, 16: Deliver me, O God, from the guilt of blood; and of your justice, I shall sing aloud.

51, 17: O Yahweh, open my lips, and I will declare your praise.

51, 18: You take no pleasure in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, you would not delight in it.

51, 19: O God, my sacrifice is a broken spirit; a contrite heart, you will not despise.

Amen



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We do a moment of silence and reflection to respond to the Lord. Today we give you thanks for his resurrection and because he fills us with joy. We add in our own intentions for prayer.

4. - CONTEMPLATION: How do I or we internalize the Word of God?

For the moment of the contemplation we can repeat various times this verse from the Gospel so that it may enter our lives and our hearts.

“Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth?”

(Verse 51)

And so we ask the Lord to be witnesses of the resurrection so that others may believe.

5. - ACTION: What do I or we commit ourselves with God?

There must be a noticeable change in my life. If I don't change, then I'm not a true Christian.

Contrary to what we might think of the biblical text, our commitment must be interior.

Personally, find some attitudes that we have that we to ask the Lord to cleanse us, it can be something internal, or external. And although we may be afraid, tell the Lord, He knows us and will make everything so it's for our wellbeing.

With your group, look for mistakes made and propose to do together some act of repairing these errors as a group and thus showing others in the community that we are doing a process of discipleship in which we want to become missionaries.