

Gospel 29th August 2021. Cycle B

22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

LORD, WHO SHALL DWELL IN YOUR TENT.



MY HOUSE IS WELCOMING HOUSE

SETTING.

Your home Lord welcomes me, I enter it, I sit down and I am silent. I have so much to tell you, about myself, about everyone. And You, what do You have to tell me? I listen to You... Your Word and my experiences intersect in this fraternal embrace that You give me and I welcome.

This time is for You, I offer You what I am, what I have; You are here.

SONG. Your goodness – Ixcis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdP3EzvdY-g>

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK: Mk 7:1-8.14-15.21-23

Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables.

Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, *Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?*

He answered and said unto them, *Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do...*

And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, *Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand: There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man...* For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, *thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

LET US DEEPEN THE TEXT.

It all started because the disciples of Jesus did not wash their hands before the meal. In many places in the world. it would not be a problem!

Let's start by being fair to the Pharisees and the scribes: when one imposes a very strict discipline on himself, out of fidelity to his religion, it cannot be understood that everyone else does not do the same. And, for them, this rigorous observance was absolutely essential: it was about preserving Jewish identity.

Quite naturally, then, the Pharisees and scribes present are outraged: "Why don't your disciples follow the tradition of the elders? They eat without having washed their hands first." But the most surprising thing is the reaction of Jesus: "Hypocrites!" Obviously, this severity suggests that there is a fundamental problem. As often happens, in front of such an audience, Jesus quotes Scripture, which for them is the supreme reference: "Isaiah has made a good prophecy about you in this passage of Scripture: *This people honors me with their lips, but his heart is far from me*" (Is 29:13).

And Jesus comments on the word of Isaiah: “You put aside the commandment of God to cling to the tradition of men”. **What is that commandment of God that the Pharisees and scribes unknowingly despise?** Jesus does not explain it here, but what he visibly reproaches them is that they have “their hearts far from God”. What have they done wrong? **Simply, they have despised others and they have despised them in the name of God, here is the inexcusable.**

Jesus does not stop rebelling against all exclusion in the name of religion. The Law is misunderstood when one thinks that it is necessary to get away from other men to get closer to God! On the contrary, the prophets used all their energy to discover that the true worship that God prefers begins with respect for men. To go further, Jesus begins a lesson on purity: in the biblical sense, purity is the ability to get closer to God; God is love and forgiveness. True purity is therefore a disposition of the heart, it is mercy. The impurity that Jesus criticizes his adversaries is “hardness of heart”.

CLUES FOR THE PRAYER.

1. What are the facts that show that our community, parish, Church acts like the Pharisees? What concerns us more about appearance or heart?
2. What do we do as a community, family, parish, Church to show that our heart is close to God and not just our lips?
3. Perform, in these days, an action in which you show the mercy of Jesus with those around you.

CLING TO GOD_____

AMBIENTAL MUSIC. Christina Perri - A Thousand Years

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgaTQ5-XfMM>

BETWEEN WHAT IS ESSENTIAL AND WHAT IS NOT.

Your fidelity is great.
To distinguish between what is
and not, is essential.
It's a matter of sensitivity
and depth.
Yours is great, incomparable.
I want to be and look like
You, You invite me to it.
How and where?
Where I stay where I live, where I am.

Being awake to life...
With the eyes penetrating
the reality that inhabits me and surrounds me.
With ears, tuned,
very attentive, to the hollow sounds,
the soft ones, the almost imperceptible ones.
With my hands in the mud,
modeling bowls,
of different shapes and sizes.
With feet on the ground,
in the furrow, in the pit.
With the shared words
in the you to you of the daily scene of life.
With the winged dreams
scanning the horizon
looking for uncut paths.
With my heart grounded
in so many lives, situations,
claims, which are made on each other.
Your fidelity is great and incomparable,
and pull ourselves carrying us forward
to strengthen presences that choose
for the vulnerable, the fragile, the small.
I want to be true to your style
and to put my little gifts
in the basket of the bread of Life.
And to embrace the future of flesh and blood,
contributing your Spirit
that unites it and enhances everything.
To walk with you and
to feel your gentle breeze.

SONG. Your amen - Ixcis (Official Lyric Video).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0tedEIJzHM>



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