



விடிவெள்ளிகள்!

கவிதைக்காக காத்திருக்கும்
காகிதம்...

நிலவிற்காக காத்திருக்கும்
நிலம்...

மழைக்காக காத்திருக்கும்
ஏழை விவசாயி...

சூரியக்கதிர்கள் தன் மேல் படரத்துடிக்கும்
காலை மலர்...

தாயின் அணைப்பிற்கு ஏங்கும்
மழலை...

காதலுக்கு காத்திருக்கும்
இளம் நெஞ்சங்கள்...

இவைகளெல்லாம்
விடியல் விரும்பிகள்...

காலத்திற்கு காத்திருக்கும்
கண்ணியவான்கள்...

புதுமை செய்ய பூத்திருக்கும்
பொறுமைசாலிகள்...

இவர்களின்
கண்ணியமும் பொறுமையும் மட்டுமே

வாழ்வை விடியச் செய்யும்
வெள்ளி மலர்கள்!

வெளிச்சத்தை வாசலுக்கே கொண்டுவரும்
விடிவெள்ளிகள்!

- AGNES JAMES



Love is Not Proud but Humble

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails (1 Cor 13:4-8).

How do you feel when you read these lines from the Bible? For me, I feel guilty. These words used to be in my refrigerator door for quite some time. Even though it was lying in the refrigerator door I will try not to read because I feel guilty and upset for the rest of the day. I will try to make justification for being quick-tempered to my family members and for being rude when I am sick or irritated. To avoid these battles within me, I will try not to read it. Last Sunday (02/03/13), when I heard these words in the second reading it made me think and reflect.

“If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing”(1 cor 13:1-3).

I am nothing if I do not have love. If I want to be something I need to have love. In other words, I need to be humble. Speaking of humility, these people come to my mind:

King David

He was anointed as the future King Of Israel. Yet he was not proud. He played the harp for King Saul. He is a mighty king, victor of innumerable battles, conqueror of the mighty Goliath. Despite all his achievements, he was deeply humble. He wanted glory to go to God not to himself. For King David, God is the true source of victory and power. Even when he sinned, he quickly and readily admitted his guilt (2 Sam 12:13; 24:10, 17). He grieved over his sin and begged God for forgiveness (Psalm 51). He continued serving the Lord (Proverbs 24:16). He is a wonderful example of someone who demonstrated humility.

Mary

Even when she was given the honor of Mother of God, she did not hesitate to go and help



Elizabeth for three month. She is the perfect model for humility.

John the Baptist

John was a “miracle baby”. He was filled with the Holy Spirit before he was born. He had the privilege to introduce the Messiah to Israel. Yet he was humble enough to say “The one who has the bride is the bridegroom; the best man, who stands and listens for him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. So this joy of mine has been made complete. He must increase; I must decrease.”(Jn 3.30).

Jesus

He is the son of God. In the eyes of Jews, He is a rabbi. A rabbi in the Jewish tradition was a respected man, honored and cared for by his disciples. Yet, He was humble enough to obey his earthly parents, served the poor and the sick, washed the feet of his disciples, accepted the ill treatments of the Jews and accepted the cross for our sins. Here was a rabbi who broke all traditions to set the new ‘habit of humility’. By doing the work of a slave, he made his teaching ‘the meek or the humble shall inherit the earth’, more meaningful.

Love and humility are the basic qualities needed for any relationship to last. Without love there can be no relationship and without humility, it is a dead end road. In a few days we will begin our lent. During this lent let us practice the humility. Only through being in the presence of Jesus Christ we can be humble. Let us ask God’s help to be humble like St. Ephrem.

Lord and Master of my life, do not give me a spirit of laziness or idle curiosity, of ambition or empty talk. Instead, grant to me, your servant, a spirit of self-control and humility, of patience and love. Yes, Lord and king, enable me to see my own failings and not to judge my brother or sister, for you are blessed unto the ages of ages. Amen.

- AGNES P. RAJ



Saint of the Month

February 11th is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Pope John Paul II declared this day as World Sick Day in 1999. All those who are sick should pray to our Lady of Lourdes and ask her intercession to regain their health.

Lourdes located in France is one of the most visited pilgrimage place in the world. Here we have the spring that started flowing during the apparitions of the blessed Virgin to St. Bernadette, a 14 year old poor sick girl.

The feast day is celebrated on February 11th as the first apparition happened on this day in 1858. The 18th and the last apparition took place in the same year on July 16th. Bernadette and her friends saw the young and beautiful lady on their way to collect firewood. She described it as a young lady dressed in white with a blue ribbon sash and holding a Rosary on her right arm. The blessed Virgin Mary spoke to Bernadette often during the apparitions. During one such apparition the lady told Bernadette to drink the water from a non-existent fountain in the grotto. Bernadette scratched the ground, a spring bubbled up and gushed forth.

Another time, the Lady told her to go and tell the priests to build a chapel at the grotto. The Lady also told Bernadette to make a procession to the Grotto. The priests were skeptical and told her to find the name of the Lady. Bernadette came back and told them that the Lady's name was "Immaculate Conception". Though this word was unknown to Bernadette, only in 1854 the Pope had declared the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. In 1862, the bishop of the diocese declared the faithful "justified in believing the reality of the apparition". After that Fr. M. Pevramale the parish priest, built a Basilica on the rock of Massabielle. In 1873, the church inaugurated the great national pilgrimage to Lourdes. By 1876, the basilica was consecrated and the statue solemnly crowned. Since the church was too small for the large pilgrims visiting the spot, another church was built at the foot of the basilica. The new one was called the "Church of the Rosary" and it was consecrated in 1901. Another large church was built at the spot where Bernadette saw the Blessed Lady.

Although the apparitions happened over a hundred years ago, still many miracles happen at the spring. Many sick people visit Lourdes and find their sickness cured. Everyone should make a pledge to visit Lourdes to honor Our Lady of Lourdes and gain physical and spiritual well being.

- Joe Natar

Faith and Heaven

We all believe Jesus is the Lord and only through Him we can go to heaven. We all believe in it and there is no doubt about it. But is that faith alone capable of taking us to heaven? I don't think so. Even extortionists, murderers and terrorists can believe Jesus is the Lord. Satan also believes Jesus is the Lord. Do they go to heaven based on that belief only? It is totally wrong to think so. If we say I live the way I want to. I will make more money. I will do whatever I can do to become very famous. I will say to myself eat, drink and merry as said by the "Rich Fool" in Jesus' parable because I am very happy who I am and I will continue living as a murderer, terrorist or extortionist. I don't care whether people live or die or whether they have anything to eat or drink or whether they go to heaven or hell but I believe Jesus is my Lord and He is my saviour. Is it the meaning of our faith? Did Jesus say this is the qualification for heaven? Did Jesus say to the "Rich Fool" that tomorrow you will be in heaven? Jesus said to him tomorrow you will die and we all know he went to hell.

By birth all our children are American citizen because it is the American law. Does Jesus have similar law? Did Jesus say because you were born from this holiest society you are automatically entitled to enter into heaven?

Let us read the following verses.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'" (Matthew 25:31-36)

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'" (Matthew 25:41-45)

Jesus talks about two groups of people gathered in front of Him. One group is on His right and one on the left. Let us examine their similarities and differences.

Both groups believed Jesus is the Lord and He is the savior. Both of them have very strong and convincing faith. Both of them are chosen and blessed people. Both of them are the holiest people on earth and on the universe and the true followers of Christ according



cont....

o them. But one group cared about others and shared their stuff and the other group did not care and did not share because they want to serve only the Lord Jesus Christ not the fellow human beings. They would have given all their possessions if Jesus was knocking their door as a beggar. They failed to see the fellow humans as an image of God. That is the reason one group had mercy in their eyes and other group had not. One group's faith was totally theoretical and the other group's faith was expressed in practical life.

Many times in our daily life we also fail to see the fellow humans as an image of God. Jesus did not even say sorry to those people on His left. The first few words said to them are "Depart from me, you who are cursed."

Therefore let us strive hard every day not to join with the cursed people side no matter what happens "because you do not know on what day your Lord will come" (Matthew 24:42) and "because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (Matthew 24:44)

Instead of spending our time, money and energy to figure out who the original followers of Christ are and who the duplicates are, let us spend them on figuring out how to be on the blessed people side first and bring our friends and relatives next because Jesus will not ask you if you an original or duplicate creation. Jesus did not say "All the originals on My right and all the duplicates on My left". At the end it does not matter whether we are original or duplicate but it matters whether we are on His right or left. If we lived all our life long as an original and true followers of Christ but found that Jesus put us on His left our situation will be very pathetic and it is too late to react.

- LEENUS RICH

Pope Benedict XVI announces his resignation at end of month



Dear Brothers,

I have convoked you to this Consistory, not only for the three canonizations, but also to communicate to you a decision of great importance for the life of the Church. After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry. I am well aware that this ministry, due to its essential spiritual nature, must be carried out not only with words and deeds, but no less with prayer and suffering. However, in today's world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the barque of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength

which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me. For this reason, and well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome, Successor of Saint Peter, entrusted to me by the Cardinals on 19 April 2005, in such a way, that as from 28 February 2013, at 20:00 hours, the See of Rome, the See of Saint Peter, will be vacant and a Conclave to elect the new Supreme Pontiff will have to be convoked by those whose competence it is. Dear Brothers, I thank you most sincerely for all the love and work with which you have supported me in my ministry and I ask pardon for all my defects. And now, let us entrust the Holy Church to the care of Our Supreme Pastor, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and implore his holy Mother Mary, so that she may assist the Cardinal Fathers with her maternal solicitude, in electing a new Supreme Pontiff. With regard to myself, I wish to also devotedly serve the Holy Church of God in the future through a life dedicated to prayer.

From the Vatican, 10 February 2013

WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER?

Writing for the newsletter is a rewarding way to contribute to our BATCC community. Members are encouraged to submit articles of interest directly to BATCC Board (board@tamilcatholic.org). Personal transitions like marriages, babies, awards, college admissions, etc. are also welcomed. Accompanying digital photos and other artwork are strongly encouraged. A# articles, transitions and photos are subject to editing, available space, and the acceptance policy.

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