

கர்த்தாவே சொல்லும்; அடியேன்
கேட்கின்றேன் (1சாமுவேல் 3:10)

கீழ்ப்படிதல் தேவனுக்கு
பிரியமானதாகும், கீழ்ப்படிதலே
மேன்மையை கொடுக்கும்!
ஆண்டவருக்கு செவிமடுத்தல்,
நம் சிந்தனைக்கும் மேலான
தேவசமாதனத்தை கூட்டும்,
ஏற்ற காலத்தில் மழை பெய்ய
செய்யும் !

மனச் சஞ்சலமான தருணங்களில் ,
சோதனை வேளைகளில்,
உள்ளத்தின் அலைகழிக்கும்
இரைச்சலை,
அடக்கி, அமைதியாக்கி,
தியானிக்கும்போது,
நிச்சயமாக! நிச்சயமாக ! தெய்வீக
அழைத்தலை உணர முடியும் !

ஆண்டவர் நம்முடன் அனுதினமும்
உறவாடுகின்றார்,
அநேக நேரங்களில் அவரின்
அழைத்தலை,
கவனியாமல், அலட்சியப்படுத்தி,
அன்பை
உணராதவராயிருக்கின்றோம்!

தேவன் நம்மை நெருங்கி
வாஞ்சனையான,
ஆறுதல் மொழி கூற தயாராய்
உள்ளார்!
முழு இதயத்துடன், முழு
ஆன்மாவுடன்,
நம்மை ஒப்புக்கொடுத்து,
கேட்க ஆயத்தமாவோம்!

- கவிதா ரெமி

Sadness is the key to Happiness

“Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted” - Mt 5:4

We probably will hear things like “God doesn’t want you to be sad,” or “Your sadness is making God sad,” or “Get over your sadness,” or “If you trust God, how can you be sad.” It is very easy to say “Don’t worry, be happy,” but it’s not natural. When we are hurt, we feel sad. Sadness is an emotional pain associated with the feelings of disadvantage, loss, helplessness and loneliness. It is a temporary lowering of mood. “Sadness is a natural response to pain, suffering and tragedy in life. It is human, natural and even, in a way, desirable: sadness in response to a tragic event shows that you are emotionally alive. If you weren’t sad from time to time, you would be something less than human.” - Fr. James Martin S.J. in his book, Between heaven and Mirth.

Mary and Joseph were worried when Jesus was lost in the temple - Lk 2:48. Jesus wept when he heard his friend Lazarus was dead - Jn 11:38. Christ was sad. He sighed and He wept over Jerusalem - Lk 19:41. Jesus’s weeping is seen as a proof of his compassion. If Jesus was sad, surely we can be sad.

It is ridiculous to be joyful always to demonstrate that we are God’s child and we trust and believe in God. Even the saints were sad from time to time. Even faithful great people of modern times like Mother Teresa felt sad and sufferings. She even suffered from a great interior darkness, a “dark night of the soul.” It does not mean they are unfaithful to God. Suffering, whether interior or exterior is something all people, including believers, devoted believers, and those who try to lead joyful lives will have.

Sadness is part of our life. It is not a bad thing to allow in our life. It is only about how we balance the happiness and sadness. The key to truly being happy is being allowed to feel sad. Specifically, the key is we should be permitted to be sad. How sad it is when we are not allowed to be sad. How painful it can be something that comes so naturally to us, is considered a negative that we must overcome it. When sadness comes along we must accept it in the same way that we accept every other experience that makes us human. Only when we experience the sadness and sufferings we can show love and compassion to others. Pain is a reminder of our

humanness. It’s also a motivator to begin learning how to change our reality.



What one can do when sadness strike? How others can help them? When I feel sad, I stop and think why I am sad. When I stop worrying my mind is ready to think. The first thing I do is visit the Lord in the adoration chapel. Sitting with Lord, I ponder on the reasons that brought me to this place, the reasons why I am feeling sad. It enables me to reflect on who I am, on my relationships with others, on my purposes in life, and to understand more about how I think and how I act. We should not let sorrow consume us. The prolonged sorrow will lead to depression. Happiness and sadness are part and parcel of our life. We cannot appreciate one without the other. We should always remember that sadness will not last forever. It is merely a cycle we pass through. When we experience happiness, we should also be aware that it too will pass. With this awareness, we can manage our sadness better.

We will feel a suppressed pain when we are made to feel guilty because we are upset over something, and someone made us feel that we should not be sad. A child when gets hurt comes to the Mother for comfort. The moment the mother carries the child and kiss her wound and have a bandaid on the wound, the child forget the pain and be happy. It is the same way for the adults too. If they are not allowed to be sad and asked to get over it, it is miserable. They do not expect you to solve their problems or remove their sadness. All they want is a hug or just a hand to hold them or a shoulder to cry. A happy person is one who is allowed to be sad. Allow the people you love to be openly sad. Their sadness and tears in front of you is a great trust. Give them your permission to be sad, and be there with them, without judgment.

Christ is always someone we can be sad in front of. And He is always the source of happiness. We experience his love and joy as we are in communion with Him, particularly together through sharing His sorrowful passion. We should take comfort in that and be imitators of Christ when someone we love needs to be sad.

- Agnes Arokia Raj



UPCOMING EVENTS

**CATECHISM CLASS,
YOUTH and PRAYER
GROUP**

**Every Saturday (except
Second Saturday) at 856 W
El Camino Real, Mountain
View CA 94040, 5 PM**

AUGUST MASS

AUGUST, 10 2013, 6:45 PM

Saint of the Month - St. James the Great



James son of Zebedee and Salome, was a native of Bethsaida which was on the northern coast of Sea of Galilee. His brother John was also another apostle. Zebedee was a rich fisherman. According to Mark 1:20 which reads he had hired men for fishing. John's gospel mentions Salome as "his mother's sister" who was one of the women under Jesus' cross. We should not confuse St. James the great with other James' we come across in the bible. There was the apostle, James the lesser, who was the son of Alphaeus. Yet we see another James who wrote the "Epistle of James". He was considered to be the first Bishop of Jerusalem and was martyred in 62 AD.

Jesus invited James and John to join as the third and fourth apostles. They left the boat at once and joined Jesus. Although St. Andrew, a disciple of John the Baptist, first recognized Jesus as the messiah, does not get prominence. Andrew was one of the first to become an apostle with Peter his brother. It is said that James was preferred over others due to his closeness with Jesus as a relative. In almost all listings of apostle, James comes within the first three.

In Luke's gospel we hear James and John asking Jesus to bring fire from heaven to destroy the Samaritan town. Due to this, Jesus called John and James as "sons of thunder". Their mother Salome asked Jesus to reserve a place for each in His kingdom, one on His right and the other on His left. They were also very strong in their faith. They declared that they were willing to drink the same cup Jesus was going to drink. James was one of the only three privileged apostles who were with Jesus during His transfiguration, when curing Peter's mother-in-law, when Jesus raised the daughter of

Jairus and later at the Garden when Jesus suffered.

James was honored to be the first apostle to be martyred in AD 44. It is believed that James' accuser himself got converted to Christianity while leading James to the killing field. Both of them were beheaded by King Herod Agrippa. Legend holds that St. James's remains were carried by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain where he was buried on the site of what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela. James is the Patron Saint of Spain and St. James is supposed to have helped the Spanish army in the battle of Clavijo. The traditional pilgrimage to the grave of the saint, known as the "Way of St. James", has been the most popular pilgrimage for Western European Catholics from the early Middle Ages onwards. 192,488 pilgrims registered in 2012 as having completed the final 100 km walk to Santiago to qualify for a Compostela. The grand pilgrimage ends in the Basilica on July 25th, his feast day. When the Feast falls on a Sunday it is considered a Jubilee Year. In the last Jubilee year in 2010, over 272,700 completed the pilgrimage which is a record. The next Jubilee year will be in 2021. There was a movie called "The Way" based on this pilgrimage starring famous actor Martin Sheen.

As an ancient pilgrim center, Srivaikundam, Tamil Nadu has been attracting pilgrims for the past 400 years. After St. Francis Xavier, Jesuits who had been serving the coastal parishes with Punnaikayal as the center, came into the interior places for evangelization. In the 1600s they built churches at Thirukaloor dedicated to St. Matthew and Srivaikundam dedicated to St. James. This church was fashioned in the form of cross with 3 passages. Hence it is known as "Cross Church".

- Joe Natar

கோடை கால காற்றே...

(Summer Special for kids)



கோடை விடுமுறை அல்ல-
இது
கோடி வேலைகளுக்கு விடுமுறை

கனமான பைகளை களைந்து விட்டு
இதமான கதைகளைக் கேட்போம்

சுமையாய் இருந்த வேலைகளை விட்டு
சுகமாக சோம்பித் திரிவோம்

புதிர்களோடு விளையாடி களைத்தது
போதும்
புதிதாய் சில வித்தைகள் கற்போம்

அறிவோடு போட்டி போட்டது போதும்
அழகாய் ஒரு ஓவியம் வரைவோம்

கால அட்டவணை இன்றி தினமும்
ஞால அட்டவணையும் நோக்கிடுவோம்

இயந்திர அறிவுக்கு சிறிது ஓய்வு
கொடுப்போம்
இயற்கையில் கொஞ்சம் மனதை
செலுத்துவோம்

சிறு சிறு உறவுகளை தேடிப்பிடிப்போம்
சிதறாமல் அவற்றை கட்டிக் காப்போம்

சுகமாக களித்திடுவோம்
இக்கோடை காலத்தை

சுதந்திரத்தோடு சுவாசிப்போம்
இந்த கோடை கால காற்றே....

- AGNES JAMES

Blessings and Miracles



We all are interested to receive blessing and miracles. It is like eating a delicious sweet for us. There are two kinds of blessings. One is spiritual and the other is material. In this world where our blessings are measured based on how much material possessions we have, Jesus said the real blessings are not the abundance of possessions "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15). To explain this

concept Jesus told us the parable of "Rich Fool". Was Jesus happy with the Rich Fool because he had stored such a huge amount of wealth like no one else? No, He said to him "Tomorrow you will die and all your wealth will be taken by others". I am not against blessings and miracles but they are not our final destinations. In other words we are not living to receive only blessings and miracles. We may receive them as bonuses and to strengthen our relationship with God as we march towards our final destination heaven.

When Jesus Christ told His disciples how to pray, He never told them to pray for any worldly blessings or miracles. When Jesus sent out all the seventy two disciples two by two they all came back and said to Him

cont....

“Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” but Jesus said to them “rejoice because your names were written in heaven” not because you have power to drive out the daemons. “However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20). From Jesus’ words we know that our real rejoice is when we have our names written in heaven. The blessing and miracles have no effect on us on the judgement day. If we are materially blessed but our name is not written in heaven then what is the use of the blessings we received. As Jesus said “What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?” (Matthew 16:26). Our fate on judgement day is decided by how we lived or how we followed our Lord’s commandments not based on what kind of faith we have, how strong our faith is in the scale of 1 to 10, how many blessings we received or how many miracles have happened in our life as He said “For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct” (Matthew 16:27). Jesus did not say we will be repaid according to our faith or based on the strength of our faith. It does not mean there is no faith but a good faith should lead us to a good conduct and at last it should lead us to see Father’s glory in heaven. If our conduct is not good no matter how greatest is our faith, it is useless for our spiritual needs. In other words the faith itself has no value. If we say we have good faith and our conduct is bad in the eyes of the Christ, will it save us on the judgement day? I don’t think so. Catholicism believes non-Christians can also enter into the kingdom of heaven if they live according to our Lord’s commandments. I consulted with many priests and they all said the same. In that case the non-Christians have no faith but their conduct speaks for them. That is the reason Jesus said “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers’” (Matthew 7:21-23). As we read above even people who prophesied, cast out daemons and did many mighty works in Jesus name cannot enter His kingdom if they slipped down in their conducts. Jesus named them “evildoers” and asked them to depart. Jesus gives importance to our conduct than our words. Otherwise He could have simply said “Everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven” which will also make our life easy to go to heaven. All we have to do is simply say ‘Lord, Lord and Lord’. That’s it. We are in heaven. Unfortunately,

there is no easy way or shortcut to heaven. We all (faithful or faithless) have to go through the narrow gate and hard way if we want to go to heaven as He said “Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few” (Matthew 7:13-14). So if someone says there is an easy way to heaven definitely it will lead us only to destruction not to heaven. Similarly there is no discounted admission to heaven based on the denomination we follow or the amount of faith we have. Are we doing the will of the Father or are we saying the will of the Father? It will be decided by Christ on our day.

In human eyes some people are faithful and others are faithless. How do we measure our faith? Jesus told us to do a simple test. “Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20). Can we move a mountain from one place to another? If not, we all do not have faith as a grain of mustard seed no matter how greatest or holiest who we think we are.

We may have received many blessings materially or spiritually but Jesus will ask us what we did to strengthen His kingdom with all the blessings and miracles we received as the master asked the servants whom he gave five talents, two talents and one talent in the parable of the Talents. If we say Lord “I have made five more talents” He will say to us “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master” (Matthew 25:21). If we say Lord I am super intelligent and very fearful of you so I went and hid your talent in the ground, here you have what is yours then He will say to us “You wicked and lazy slave, take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Let us not be very proud because we are materially blessed or we are super spiritual. If we are blessed more, we are more accountable to God than others and God’s demand on us is very high. “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded” (Luke 12:48). So let us use our blessings and miracles to strengthen His kingdom and God will put us in charge of many things automatically as He does not want us to go after them. “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

- LEENUS RICH

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.

DARWIN LIMOUSINES

Airports, Corporate, Weddings, Proms, Wine Tours



John Nathan

650 393 3425

info@darwinlimo.com

www.darvinlimo.com

**Dove Dental Smiles
Shirley Irudayaraj DDS**



Modern Office
All PPO Insurances Accepted
Open Saturdays
Senior Discounts
Affordable Monthly Payments

877 W Fremont Ave, Ste L1
Sunnyvale CA 94087

(408) 498-0244

www.DoveDentalSmiles.com