**Seek the Lord**

All our readings tell us to always seek the Lord. The Lord is the way, the truth and the life, if we want all three, then we should seek Him with our whole heart, mind, and strength. In return, He will transform our lives to be like His, and we will live with Him for eternity. We should always seek to duel in the house of the Lord for eternity. When we seek God, He will touch our hearts to seek His friendship more and more each day of our lives and we will desire to make amends for our sins. We will be moved by His goodness to seek the good of others for His sake, and His word will be the light that guides us so we may live the truth and grow always in His love.

When our heart and mind are focused on God, He will teach us to seek humility and wisdom from above instead of glory on earth and in all things, we will be gentle and full of mercy. When we seek the Lord, even though we might be poor, we will be rich. Even though we might be in distress and suffer, we will be smiling, because all that would matter to us will be His infinite love for us. We will be assured of His assistance in the time of trial and tribulation. It is so simple and freeing but it is hard for us to do. If we are self-seeking we will always second guess our actions. We might ask ourselves; what if I had not done this or that?

However, when we seek God and give all our problems to Him, we will realize that He allowed certain problems to occur in our lives so He could build us up to be stronger in our faith and then He will draw us closer to Himself so we can rely only in His abundant love and mercy. We should seek Him who died for us so we might have life and desire Him who rose so we might live for eternity. Anyone who seeks God, will be ruled by God’s love. God’s love shows patience. When wronged by others, it shows self-control. It returns good for evil. It will be impossible for those who seek the love of God to be jealous of worldly good because they know, they do not satisfy.

In our first reading from the Book of Prophet Zephaniah, we are asked to seek the Lord. The prophet warned the people of his time and us to be prepared for the Great Day of the Lord by seeking God. The Great Day of the Lord, is the Day of Judgment and punishment against the world and Judah. The judgment day is cosmic and it will not just be for peoples and nations, but for creation as a whole. However, he gave hope to those who observe the Lord’s commandments by seeking justice, and seek humility. To them, he said they may be exempted from the coming tribulation and destruction.

Why would there be destruction of creation? It would be because of sin. The people of the prophet’s time were practicing idolatry in many forms. They were practicing violence and fraud, false reliance on wealth, injustice, oppression corruption, deceit and lies. His prophesy also let them know that it would not be total wipeout of humanity, because God promised that He would leave a remnant or survivors among those who were humble and lowly of heart. They will be the poor and lowly people. They will survive because they seek glory from the Lord of glory. They do not seek glory now on earth, but the glory to come after this life.

In our second reading, from the letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, we notice that it is those who seek God that He chooses. In the Bible we notice that God did not choose Herald who felt he was self-sufficient. Instead, Jesus chose the lowly who seek the coming of the Messiah such as Peter and Andrew, James and John who were fishermen, they were the ones who studied Scripture and were awaiting the coming of the Messiah. St. Paul makes it clear that God seek out those who are weak, the lowborn and the despised who would seek God for their sustenance or their daily bread. A fisherman would seek God’s help so he could catch enough fish to feed his family. While a king will depend on the royalty from the people. He does not have to worry.

St. Paul said the ultimate purpose of God choosing those who are lowly and poor, who would always seek God is to preclude any human from boasting about personal merit or qualification. God favors the weak and the lowly because generally they are in a better position to recognize that they need to seek and depend completely on God. God simply cannot tolerate any competition. If God were to do so, He would be untrue to Himself and would deny that He alone is the source of every good gift. Everything is grace and gift from God. It is humbling to realize that we must totally depend on God and each other. The weaker we are, the more grace abound from God. Jesus told us to seek first the kingdom of God.

In our Gospel reading, we noticed that Jesus declared the beatitudes in The Sermon on the mount. Jesus is presented as the new Moses who presented the 10 Commandments on the mountain top. Beatitudes means happiness or using a stronger word “bliss.” Our Gospel writer Matthew used the word Beatitude to describe statements by Jesus which are certainly unusual. After all, to us, where is the happiness in being poor, or sorrowful, or thirsty or hungry. In our society, being happy is used for those who are rich not those who are poor! We are led to believe that happiness is found in money and everything money can buy.

To the Jews who were listening to Jesus, their world must have been turned upside down. They must have been wondering what He was getting at. They must have been captured by His word. However, what Jesus is saying to them is, if you are going through all these problems now, in the next life you will have happy, in the next life you will be rewarded and blessed for staying the course. For example, Jesus promises comfort and a great reward when we mourn. Jesus wished to establish a whole new set of values. He insisted that happiness comes, not from relying on riches, but from relying on God. Jesus is saying, how blessed are the poor in spirit, because they are those who depend completely on God and see Him as the source of all good.

A cynic would say, Jesus’ way would not work, but the truth is that it has worked for centuries. It has worked for saints, who like St. Paul, truly believe that God “comforts us in all our afflictions. Jesus tells them happiness comes from seeking first the kingdom of God. Without God in our lives, no matter how much money or fame we have, we will not be satisfied. We will always want more money. I think we all know this song: ***seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. And all these things shall be added unto you Alleluia, Alleluia.*** In conclusion, Jesus is telling us to make a choice: rely on material things which cannot last, or rely on God who never fails.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask Him for more grace to always seek God first.