**Trust and Depend on God**

As we are moving closer and closer to Christmas, our hearts are swelling and filling up with joy. It is a joy that is hard to contain. Our reason for the joy is the remembrance and anticipation of the coming of the One who came to save us. This is the special time set aside for remembrance of the one we know we can fully trust and depend on because He told us to trust in Him.

In our first reading Ahaz king of Judah, earlier in the chapter had wanted to enter into an alliance with Assyria to protect himself from his enemies, his neighboring kings. He was trying to pretend to Prophet Isaiah that he trusted in God. Isaiah wanted him to put total trust in God and not in any foreign military power. Isaiah promised him a sign from God so Ahaz could trust in God.

Ahaz with false humility, refused to accept Isaiah’s offer by saying, he is not bold enough to test God by asking for a sign. However, Ahaz already tested God by his desire to form an alliance with the Assyrians. The truth about Ahaz’s rejection of a sign from God, was that he was afraid that on receiving the sign, he would have to give up his intention to form an alliance with Assyria.

Ahaz trusted more in the power of Assyria than he trusted in the power of God. He relied more on things he could see and not on the God that he could not see. He wanted to take things into his own hands rather than leave it in God’s hand. He did not want to wait for God’s timing that is always the perfect timing. His trust was nonexistence or lacking in the God who created him and all things visible and invisible.

We also do this to God sometimes. We do not go to Him when we have problems. We sometimes forget to let God be God in our lives. We want to rely on ourselves and others instead of relying on God. However, God is telling us to come to Him and He will set us free from our fears and troubles. We have to believe that God would deliver us from all trials and tribulations and without Him, we can do nothing.

Prophet Isaiah ignored Ahaz’s refusal to ask for a sign and gave Ahaz the sign God commanded him to give. It was a sign that would vibrate to eternity. **“Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.”** The sign is the fulfillment of the promise from God to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations.

It was a sign that tells us that God so loved the world that in the fullness of time He sent His only begotten Son to save us. He sent Him as the suffering servant who came to serve and not to be served. He sent Him to come and free us from the shackles of sin and the Devil.

In our second reading, Paul in his letter to the Romans tells them he was sent by God to propagate the good News of the new Born King. The only begotten Son of God came in the flesh so we could relate to Him. He stressed the need to depend on God by being obedient to our faith in Him. It is then that we will belong to Him.

It must be our desire to belong to Him by trusting and depending on Him. It is then that we will have peace and joy in this world and in the world to come. To different degree, all of us are called to spread the gospel by our words, actions, and deeds. We are called to keep Christmas as Christmas and not a day only to eat, drink, and exchange presents. We should make it a day that we talk about what His coming means to us and give thanks for His many blessings on us.

In Gospel reading, Mathew gave us a vivid account of how the only begotten Son was born into our world. It was through dependency, trust, and acceptance by Mary and Joseph on the word of God, that He was incarnate of the Virgin Mary. We are made aware that at first, Joseph a righteous man, was afraid to take up the responsibility of taking care of Mary and her Baby.

Then, an Angel appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him that Mary’s conception was not by a man but by the Holy Spirit. This means that Mary kept her Virginity. The Angel told Joseph that this Son who is to be called Jesus or **“God is with us,”** would save His people from their sins.

Mathew then reminded us that the prophecy God gave us through Prophet Isaiah in our first reading has being fulfilled almost 700 years later. It is a prophesy Joseph would have remembered when He woke up. He then took Mary to be his wife as the angel of the Lord had told him. It is through trust and dependency on God that Joseph accepted to be the husband and the foster father of the Son of God.

As we come to receive the Son of God in the Eucharist, let us ask Jesus for His grace to fully trust and depend in Him.