

若 6:44-51

那時候，耶穌對群眾說：「凡不是派遣我的父所吸引的人，誰也不能到我這裏來，而我在末日要叫他復活。在先知書上記載：『眾人都要蒙天主的訓誨。』凡由父聽教而學習的，必到我這裏來。這不是說有人看見過父，只有那從天主來的，才看見過父。我實實在在告訴你們：信從的人，必得永生。我是生命的食糧。你們的祖先在曠野中吃過「瑪納」，卻死了；這是從天上降下來的食糧，誰吃了，就不死。我是從天上降下的生活的食糧；誰若吃了這食糧，必要生活直到永遠。我所要賜給的食糧，就是我的肉，是為世界的生命而賜給的。」——上主的話。

反省

「凡不是派遣我的父所吸引的人，誰也不能到我這裏來」，雖然天主賦予人自由意志，但只有被天主吸引的人才能相信耶穌，並跟祂建立關係。憑信心親近耶穌的人，會看見祂，也會明白祂偉大的真理。因此，心硬的人聽不懂天國的事理，唯有虛心的人才能經歷天主的愛。

如同讀經一那個太監，雖然誦讀《依撒意亞先知書》，由於沒有人指教，所以無法明白經書的內容。聖神指示斐理伯靠近那輛馬車，同時也感動渴慕真理的太監虛心向斐理伯請教。斐理伯就由「上主受苦的僕人」開始，為太監講解有關「耶穌基督的福音」。

「凡由父聽教而學習的，必到我這裏來」，由於天父的吸引，人才得以親近耶穌。如果我們接受天父的邀請，學習祂的教訓，就能體會耶穌基督是人唯一的終向。事實上，耶穌對很多人講話，只有一部分人對耶穌的宣講，心中有感動，願意謙卑地尋求了解，最後到達耶穌那裡。同樣，太監深受感動，剛巧來到有水的地方，太監便要求領洗。原來他是一個歸依猶太教的外邦人，按照梅瑟法律，明文禁止閹人進入聖殿朝拜。現在他認識和接受耶穌是救世主，在基督內就沒有任何障礙了。斐理伯回答說：「你若全心相信，便可以。」太監答說：「我信耶穌基督就是天主子。」因此，誰願意學習天主的教訓，就能領受救恩，千萬不要輕看任何一顆受教的心。

實踐

外邦人（太監）虛心受教，跟猶太人（群眾）的心硬形成強烈對比。他們所求所想的無非是物質的東西，卻對耶穌宣講的真理、永生的國度、生命之道聽不入耳。天父把「真正的食糧」——耶穌基督賞賜給人，為叫信祂的人獲得生命。唯有與耶穌建立密切的關係，渴慕耶穌、認識耶穌，才是讓人生命不再饑渴的不二法門。

是日金句

「凡敬畏天主的人，請你們前來靜聽，我要敘述他為我靈魂的所作所行。」（詠 66:16）

聆聽講道：<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65PkwXlr944>

April 23 Thursday of the Third Week of Easter

John 6:44-51

Jesus said to the crowds: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: They shall all be taught by God. Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world."

Reflections

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him." Although God grants us free will, only those drawn by God can believe in Jesus and enter into a relationship with him. Those who approach Jesus in faith will see him and come to understand his truths. That is why those with hardened hearts cannot grasp the matters of the Kingdom of God; only those who are humble can experience God's love.

Just as in the first reading about the Ethiopian eunuch, though reading the prophet Isaiah, he could not understand because no one taught him. The Holy Spirit led Philip to approach the chariot and at the same time it moved the eunuch to ask Philip for guidance. Philip then began with this Scripture passage, he proclaimed Jesus to him.

"Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me." Because of the Father, we can draw near to Jesus. If we accept the invitation of the Father and learn His teachings, we can recognize that Jesus Christ is the one and only goal of human life. In fact, Jesus spoke to many people, but only little were moved by his words, willing to seek understanding, and came to Jesus. Likewise, the eunuch was deeply moved and came to a place with water, so he asked to be baptized. He was originally a gentile who had converted to Judaism, and according to the the Mosaic Law, eunuchs were explicitly forbidden from entering the temple to worship. Now that he had come to know and accept Jesus as the Savior, there was no longer any obstacle in Christ. Philip replied, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." The eunuch answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Therefore, whoever is willing to learn God's teachings can receive salvation; never despise any humble heart.

Practice

The eunuch's humble openness to God's teaching stands in sharp contrast to the hardened hearts of the Jewish crowd. What they seek and desire is nothing more than material things; yet they cannot hear the truth proclaimed by Jesus—nor the Kingdom of eternal life, nor the way of life. God gives those who

believe in him the “true bread”, Jesus Christ, so that they may have life. Only by forming a close relationship with Jesus—by longing for him and coming to know him—can a person truly be freed from spiritual hunger and thirst.

Today’s Bible verses

“Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare what he has done for me.” (Psalm 66:16)