



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - MAY 08, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ !

Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 10 2020 – (John 4:31-38)

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Has any one brought him food?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work.” ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. ³⁶ He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Reflections:

This conversation happens after Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. In John’s Gospel such a ‘sandwich’ narration is a rarity. It means either a conversation or an incident brought into a scene, which acts as a filling or break. (There was no chance for any commercial break then!) This conversation happens in between Jesus finishes talking to Samaritan woman and the people of the village coming to Christ.

Disciples were coming back (John 4: 27) from where? It seems, they had gone out summoning food stuff. Imagine they go to McDonald’s, Tim Horton’s or any other take away to get some food. We could assume this while they inviting Christ to have His food on their return. The response of Jesus has lead them to assume that somebody has brought a wrap or tiffin to Him. The explanatory part makes it clear. Jesus was such a dedicated worker who thought it as his food. We often hear to say, ‘Joli ente annamaanu’ which means the job they do bring their earning which keep them surviving. We might have come across people who surprisingly show no commitment or dedication to their work. They just do it for the sake of it. They never try to give their personal input. They show no passion for their job. Here Jesus stands out with His passion for work entrusted to Him by the Father. In the family/corporate business world many reports are available of sons suing their fathers and fighting for ownership. Here we see an obedient, sincere and loving son who loves his job and really passionate about it. Kingdom of Heaven requires such dedicated workers. Or in other words, such workers make their work place a Heaven and through their service transform the world to a Kingdom of God! Jesus stands as the perfect example and model for all employees and service personals. Especially at this time of Covid threats, the world has seen miraculous result of the service of dedicated workers in various fields which has brought the spread to minimum and cure to maximum. Church also witnesses good result of dedication of its members. When each and every member invests their inputs with a passion for Christ, it brings in a great transformation.

Here Christ uses the term ‘harvest’. It points to the outcome of some investments and inputs. Every baptised member has the call to work for the Kingdom, not for their interest but for the Will of the



Sender. We can either be hypocritical, passive, sleepy, arrogant, judgemental, pessimistic, and suspicious OR dedicated who always look for what one could give out than what one could receive.

Feasts

10 May- St Simon the Apostle (Acts 1:13, Luke 6:15) who assumed to be among the Zealots like Judas Iscariot who were engaged in political protests. It is also probable that the term zealous points to his zeal for the kingdom. It is also assumed that he was from the town Cana. In gospel narrations, we don't hear Simon talking like Peter or John. But he was active like others and moved with Christ as others did. His place of death is unsure.

08 May- St John the Evangelist. Popular assuming of his identity is as the author of St John's Gospel and of two Epistles. He is also identified as the one whom Jesus loved (John 13:23, 21:20, 24). If he was more loved by his Guru, he is the one who reflected more on the nature and essence of his Guru which is love (1 John 3:1,11,15,16,18,23, 4:7-20).

10 May – Mar Thoma V, 255th anniversary of parting, entombed at Niranom Valiyapally.

04 May – Sabhakavi Sri C P Chandy, 15th anniversary, buried at St Basil Dayara chapel, Pathanamthitta. All the liturgical hymns of Malankara Orthodox Church has been written by him. HH Baselios Mar Thoma Mathews 1st translated them from Syriac and Chandy Sir made it into the hymnal form. We cannot imagine our church without these beautiful hymns. Because he was a literary genius, he could bring the most beautiful poetic presentation of each prose while keeping its theological and catechetical contents unaffected. He is the one to whom church owes this much for the liturgical contribution. His memory would be eternal. As long as the church sings and chants the hymns, his life and contributions would be reverberated through it. Let us be proud of him. Let us be proud of the treasure of hymns we have. Tomorrow, while commemorating, we would sing a few of his hymns. He was a selfless, non egoistic, completely dedicated, highly pious and genuinely devoted son of Church. May his memory be a blessing for us. If he was a bishop, church would have him canonised within this time span. Let us hope, one day, sooner or later, he shall be declared a saint.

Mothers Day

If a day to be celebrated by every human on earth would be this: Mothers Day! Mother is readiness and selflessness in human form. Mother is the light of every family. Even for God to define His tender care, 'mother concept' had to be brought through prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:13) As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you... Nobody can pay back to her for the life she lives for her husband, children and family. While working tirelessly at home, she also maintains a balance of her job, church life, social connectivity, charity acts and stays as the authoritarian for life values and morals. She teaches her children how to pray, what to believe, how to look at others, how to care for beloveds, how to be hospitable, how to minimise her needs to supply for the needs for others, how to keep the spiritual vibe of home and how to plan for her children. Most often, her tears would go unseen, her sighs go unheard, her cries go silenced, her values go unrecognised. But she is the foundation on which every family would be built upon. She represents God on Earth, not in sacramental sense but concretely and secularly. She is the one who earnestly listens to her children at any age. She is the shelter and presence of comfort. We learn her mostly after she leaves. I am sure,



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majority of us would keep a feeling of guilt for not being there for her needs and service. But we are also sure, she is kind enough to understand and forgive. Let us salute all Mothers. They are the womb of humanity. They have bore us when we had to come to this world. She was our first home.

Tomorrow we would celebrate Mothers Day at church. The red rose on the altar and on the prayer table would be dedicated to our beloved Mothers. May I request our beloved members, all sons and daughters, please take a time to honour them home. You can give her a close hug, touch her feet in reverence. You can sing her a song, if she enjoys, preferably a lullaby she had sung for us. Enquire what would make her happy. Let us all feel grateful to God for giving us the most wonderful person on earth, our Mom ! Love you Mothers ! You are the Bestest ever !!!

Sad Parting

Fr Biji Markose Chirathalat, Vicar of St Thomas Jacobite Church, Birmingham, UK and Sunday School Director of UK Region has passed away after getting infected with Covid 19. He was serving a Chaplain at Hospital and recently engaged in giving counselling to Covid patients. He has sacrificed his life for people. May his soul be comforted by the Lord. May his family be empowered and strengthened by Holy Spirit.

Joint Clergy Meeting of NE and SW American Dioceses

A joint virtual meeting of Metropolitans and clergies of the Dioceses of North East and South West America was held on Thursday 07 May in the evening. It was possibly the first of its kind. About 100 clergies joined. Both bishops were present and blessed the gathering with their edifying messages. It has given a feeling of oneness and togetherness in Christ. There would be more meetings convened. This would give us opportunities to surpass the geographical and cultural barriers and also provide platform for discussing on various possibilities of ministry among our faithful spread throughout US and Canada.

Tomorrow, Morning service would begin at 09:00am followed by Holy Qurbana. Please access the link for virtual joining.

Keeping you all in prayer

Yours in Christ
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