

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY – ORD. (A)

DO I HAVE THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST?

July 8/9, 2023

The Israelites were promised a Messiah-King to rule them. The nature of His kingship would be different from what they were familiar with. Instead of leading them to battle, He would bring peace and be filled with humility. He would abolish war and establish peace. He would be riding on an ass, on a colt – a symbol of meekness and humility. He would not ride on a horse – a symbol of war. He would deliver them so they should rejoice.

The king to be waited for was the Lord Jesus. He is the Prince of Peace. On His way to Jerusalem, He rode on a donkey, a fulfilment of the prophecy of Zechariah. In His life and teachings, He manifested the peace and humility associated with the Messiah-King.

He praised His Father for revealing His mysteries of salvation to ordinary people and hiding them from the learned. That was another way of talking about humility and how God raises the lowly. He then invited others to come to Him, to learn from Him to be meek and humble of heart, and to live like Him. He invited people to come to Him with their burdens and He would give them rest.

Jesus had pity on those who were sinners and helped them to come out of their situations. He fed those who were hungry and consoled the sorrowful. He associated with the lowly and the outcast. He alleviated the burdens of those who were in many difficult situations. Those who were under bondage of sin and evil forces were set free. This was the fulfilment of His desire to bring peace into people's lives.

He is inviting me also to come to Him so that He will set me free from all my worries and problems. What is my biggest problem in life? What gives me sleepless nights and many worries? Is what I am experiencing beyond His ability to solve. Was He not able to do many wonderful things beyond human comprehension? Were His apostles not able to do what He did through the power He gave them? Do I believe in His promise to be with us always?

He does not only call me to come to be set free, but also to learn to live like Him. But do I have that zeal to live as the Lord wants me to live? Am I living in the flesh or in the Spirit? Do I belong to Christ? If I belong to Him, then

what am I learning from Him? He was gentle and humble of heart; do I have that spirit?

His teachings and way of life attracted many people to follow Him. Is my life bringing people to Jesus or am I driving people away from Him? “People brought little children to Him, for Him to lay His hands on them and pray. The disciples scolded them, but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children alone, and do not stop them from coming to me; for to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs” (Mt.19:13-14). He wants me to have a child-like faith in Him. I cannot attain salvation with pride and arrogance, greed, selfishness and hatred, but with love, peace, gentleness and humility.

I cannot have the Spirit of Christ if I don't have the desire to live according to the dictates of the Spirit. The flesh is always fighting against the Spirit, so I am not able to do the good that what I want to do (Rom.7:19). The actions of the flesh in my life are aggressive, loud and dominant. But the results of its actions, are failure in life and destruction of my life. Its actions are deceitful, and they put burdens on me. Giving in to what the flesh wants can lead me to shame, worries, sadness, and even hatred for other people. But if I follow the dictates of the Spirit, Jesus will set me free from all the problems the flesh can cause me.