

10th Sunday of the Year B

*My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word. (Ps 129:5)*



First Reading

Genesis 3:9-15

The Lord God called to the man. "Where are you?" he asked. "I heard the sound of you in the garden," he replied "I was afraid because I was naked so I hid." "Who told you that you were naked?" he asked "Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?" The man replied, "It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it." Then the Lord God asked the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman replied, "The serpent tempted me and I ate."

Then the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, be accursed beyond all cattle, all wild beasts. You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust every day of your life. I will make you enemies of each other: you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. It will crush your head and you will strike its heel."

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1

As we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture – I believed, and therefore I spoke – we too believe and therefore we too speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among the people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, "Beelzebul is in him," and, "It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out." So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan! If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either – it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house.

I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies; but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin." This was because they were saying, "An unclean spirit is in him."

His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, "Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you." He replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother."

Meditation

This episode in Jesus' ministry is shocking. His mother and his brothers set out for Capernaum to seize him and bring him back to his senses. We must remember that Jesus passed his first thirty years in the obscurity of an ordinary life. How could his family suddenly accept the fact that the one they had known so well was travelling all over the country publicly making exorbitant claims, correcting the Law and venerable traditions? In fact, this zeal for his Father's house was in no way reasonable and his family had good reason to be disturbed. He would continue to disconcert his relatives and his friends until finally he would reach the supreme folly, the folly of the cross, into which he would drag all of them.

The peremptory judgment of the scribes is serious and disturbing in a different way. They blaspheme against the Holy Spirit, because their error is not simply about Jesus' person and rank. To say that the Son of God works by the power of Satan is to place oneself beyond salvation.

The dilemma still arises – are we for or against Christ?