

October 20, 2020 – 29th Week in Ordinary Time



**“In our moments of failure and weaknesses, having the courage to approach the Throne of God’s Mercy and asking Him to light our lives!”
(Eph 2:12-22 and Lk 12:36-38)**

Little Jane heard a sermon in church on “Let your light shine!” She remembered the verse; however, did not understand the text much, until her mother explained: “It means, to be good, obedient and cheerful” That evening, after coming back from playing with her friends – where she had been a little naughty and mischievous – Jane came back to her mother and said: “Ma, sorry I have blown myself out! Can you light me again?”

Every Christian is called to become a beacon of light in the darkness and to be a shining star in the ambiance of every night. Is the Light of Christ shining in me?

The Gospel of the Day too shares this aspect and reminds the aspect of being watchful for the Coming of the Lord, by keeping the Light of Christ alight. Jesus said to His disciples, “Be ready, dressed for service, **AND KEEP YOUR LAMPS LIT...**” (Lk 12: 35). To keep our lamps lit – is the reminder and challenge of the Gospel today.

At our Baptism, we all have received the Light of Christ. This light is not just to be preserved but is to be nurtured and fostered daily. But we live in a world when there are many winds seeking to put off this light in us. We live in a world, where there is a strong engulfing of the darkness, trying to devour the light in us.

What are the different winds that are seeking to put off the Light of Christ in us?

A. The wind of “losing the focus from God”

i. King David

King David was a shining light to the people of his kingdom, as long as he followed the teachings and had his focus on God. But when he allowed his focus to shift from God, he sinned. He allowed himself to focus on the object of his pleasure by sinning with the wife of Uriah. The wind of “losing the focus from God” blew strong to put off the light in him.

ii. Samson

Samson was a shining light of power and might, as long as he was faithful to God and had his focus on God. But when he allowed his focus to shift from God, he sinned. He allowed himself to focus on the object of his delight by revealing the secret to Delilah. The wind of “losing the focus from God” blew strong to put off the light in him.

iii. Peter

Peter was a shining light to his disciples as a person of faith, as long as he followed the instructions of his Master to walk on the waters. But when he allowed his focus to shift from the Lord, he began to sink. He allowed himself to focus on the object of his fear and self-panic. The wind of “losing the focus from God” blew strong to put off the light in him.

B. The wind of “being focused on one’s own selfish interests”

i. Saul

Saul was adorned to be the first king of Israel; however, as his reign continued, his own selfish motives began to creep in his kingship.

When he “began to be more self-centered”, he began to lose the approval of God. The wind of “being focused on one’s own selfish interests” blew strong to put off the light in him?

ii. The Pharisees and Scribes

The Pharisees and Scribes during the time of Jesus insisted much on their selfish agenda in the imposition and following of the Laws. When they “began to be more self-centered”, they began to lose the favor of God. The wind of “being focused on one’s own selfish interests” blew strong to put off the light in them.

iii. Judas

Judas was chosen to be one of the Twelve in the mission of the Lord; but as time grew, he continued to feed his greed for money and wealth.

When he “began to be more self-centered”, he began to lose the esteem of God. The wind of “being focused on one’s own selfish interests” blew strong to put off the light in him.

C. The wind of “false principles and ideologies”

i. People of Israel

The people of Israel had been blessed with the commandments of God. They, however, were dismayed at the delay of Moses on Mt Sinai, and instead got enamored and attracted to false gods and especially to the deity of mammon and wealth. When they

“began to abandon the True Teaching and attached themselves to false beliefs”, they angered God and brought upon themselves the wrath of the Lord. The wind of “false principles and ideologies” blew strong to put off the light in them.

ii. People of Galatians 1:6

St Paul accuses the people of Galatia, that were abandoning the Gospel which they first heard, and instead was being attracted to the pleasurable and false teachings of the false prophets. When they “began to abandon the True Teaching and attached themselves to false beliefs”, they strayed away from the path of salvation.

The wind of “false principles and ideologies” blew strong to put off the light in them...

Let's examine our own lives.

- Am I allowing the wind of “losing the focus from God” to put off the light in us?
- Am I allowing the wind of “being focused on one's own selfish interests” to put off the light in us?
- Am I allowing the wind of “false principles and ideologies” to put off the light in us?

As the saying goes, “We can't prevent birds from flying over our heads, but we can certainly prevent them from laying a nest on our heads” We cannot prevent these winds from rage and hit our lives but we can certainly prevent them from blowing off the Light of Christ in us.

This strength comes from our determination, perseverance & commitment. And above all, being united with Jesus, the Source of Light: in daily prayer, frequent sacraments, constant nourishment with the Word, and faithfulness to the daily duties of our vocation and life.

St Paul reminds us of the greatness of God's Presence in our lives and of our vocation: “So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit!” (Eph 2:19-22).

Let us pray

Lord Jesus, in our moments of failure and weaknesses, let us also have the courage to approach Your throne of Mercy saying: “Lord, sorry I have blown myself out. Can you light me again?”. Fill us with a joyful heart and a generous spirit that is ready to serve and to do whatever you command.

Jesus, We Trust In You