

Accept the word of God, not as the word of men

Homily, 12th August, 2016

1 Thess 2,13

father G. Papparone o.p.

Dearest,

This is the verse that is read before the Gospel, the Alleluia verse, which reminds us of an obvious truth, that we all know.

In fact, at the end of the reading it is proclaimed: *it is the word of God!*

However, if we move from the cognitive-notional level, the practical-existential level, we immediately see a dissonance, **an almost unfathomable distance between what we proclaim with our lips and what we live with life; and, in the words of Saint Paul, what we believe with the heart.**

It is the word of God: well, we are convinced, we believe!
We close the book and then we live the word of men...!

Sure, there are some things, even a lot, that we welcome among the teachings of Jesus, but **we hardly understand the meaning, the realization, the fullness, the joy of our lives can only be achieved if we live in the word of God, and to the extent that we can accept it.**

If it is the word of God, first of all we should have a great sense of respect, almost trembling; then, of gratitude and praise...

Think, people are worrying about finding the truth, knowing whether God exists, how he is done, if there is something beyond the material world, what is this material world and the spiritual world how it is done...

We know that there is the word of God! God speaks of himself!

We do not need to run around the world, we do not need to climb mountains or go down to the bottom of the sea...

We have the word of God, who wants to enlighten us, teach us, and console us...

We just need to believe with our heart, believe with life: it is the word of God!

It means that what we hear has to be welcomed with joy and gratitude, and in totality.

Then, let us ask the Lord to give us strength, courage, audacity, fortitude, perseverance; let us ask Him to make us discover the treasure hidden in the field, the treasure of this truth: it is the word of God!

It is the word of God, accept it not as the word of men.

Of course, we listen to the word of God through human expressions, in our human language.

I was in Austria recently and I heard the word of God through the German, and I did not understand a word... they were just incomprehensible sounds to me...

They could talk about whatever and I would not understand anything...

Accept the word of God, not as the word of men

Homily, 12th August, 2016

1 Thess 2,13

father G. Papparone o.p.

The great gift of God is to speak in our language; He assumed our vocabulary, our language, not just the literal one of grammar, but also the human communicative one, to make Himself understood.

How nice is to hear the word of God in our language!

But **the risk** is just that: right after having heard this word, we forget that it is the word of God, we mix it up with any other human words, and it becomes almost a habit...

I recommend all of you to hear the word of God in an unknown language, so you will appreciate the great gift of being able to hear the word of God in your own language; not limited to verbal language, but trying to understand that God speaks to us as men, speaks to us through the human word, using **the human language of living**.

Let us discover then this communication that God decided to give us through the human language of existence.

Praised be Jesus Christ.