

Be freed from your hollow demeanour

Homily – May 25, 2016

1 Pet 1,18-25

father G. Paparone o.p.

My dearest,

I utterly love this first letter by St. Peter that summarizes the mystery of Christ's salvation, especially from a practical, operational and existential stand points, and more specifically within the scope of our inner attitude.

Ultimately, the world we live in is the **inner world**, focused on our attitudes, wishes, hopes, fears and worries....

This is the true world.

Indeed, we move into our space, we build, work, enjoy or be hit by the material scope of the place we live in; yet, if we stop and ponder, **the actual space that features the quality of our lives is the inner space.**

Well, Saint Peter reminds us that the Christian faith is the chance granted to us as a gift that can change this inner space: you are aware that you have been freed from your demeanour – the legacy from your fathers – not at the price of ephemeral matters, but through Christ's precious blood.

Therefore, salvation we all talk about – in this letter – is qualified as follows: like the liberation from our “hollow demeanour inherited from our fathers”.

Who are those “fathers”?

Those belonging to the chosen people, who received Moses' law, the people who rejoice to know what is liked by God and know his Commandments; yet, Saint Peter says that a “hollow demeanour” was their legacy!

How can this be?

This is so since knowing the Law does not free us from a *hollow demeanour*; also, the word of the Gospel does not free us automatically from our behaviour, feelings and reacting...

What frees us is Christ's precious blood, so we have read.

Therefore, **Sacraments** and **God's grace** have the power of freeing us from our *hollow demeanour*; yet, one must be willing **to achieve this freedom!**

Further to this, we must know what is a *hollow demeanour* that typifies us and what is the salvation demeanour that God wishes to instil into us.

Knowing, wishing, hoping and count on Christ's precious blood. This is what we need to do.

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Therefore, let us try to achieve an understanding of what a *hollow demeanour* is.

What comes to my mind now is the book of Qoheleth:

Vanity of vanities. All is vanity ...(Qoh 1:2): the book of Qoheleth says that what man does in the world is only vanity.

Jesus frees us from this vanity, from this existential void, if we welcome him and decide to live according to the Gospel.

I wish you all to be courageous to be willing to live according to the Gospel as well as the ability of understanding that **the meaning of our faith is substantially this: putting into practice the word of God everyday of our lives.**

With this wish in your heart, the Lord will not delay to free it from the “hollow demeanour that is our fathers’ legacy”.

Praised be Jesus Christ.