

The Lord tells you that he will make you a house

Homily 24th December, 2016

2Sam 7,1-5.8-12.14.16

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I have read this rather lengthy passage because it was essential to understand the thoughts I am going to offer you, thoughts that are extremely important for our life of faith, because they involve two great characters: **king David** – the anointed by God, the elected, he who is also considered to be the author of a few psalms, and a prophet himself – and **the prophet Nathan**.

These two friends of God, people who lived in His presence and have been visited by Him, devise a project. In fact, it's the king, David who devises a project: to build a temple, a house, a place where God can be worshipped - and the prophet Nathan agrees with him.

Two men, hence, extraordinary; two spiritual, two inspired men; but the text tells us that **this inspiration is not coming from God**; it's a human inspiration, it's the fruit of a human way of thinking: *that same night, God appeared to the prophet Nathan and tells him, go and speak to David...*

Dearest, we really are staring at an outstanding mystery.

We are faced with a beautiful passage in the scriptures, one that can truly help us in our difficult path.

We too, often, like David, want to build a house for God; we hatch projects and resolutions, we wish to honour God, we put together structures, activities, things that in our eyes are appealing, reasonable, necessary, due: I live in a royal palace, David is thinking – and God in a tent... then, I need to give praise and worship to God, and I intend to build a grand palace...

So many palaces we have built for God! So many churches, so many temples...

But, the Spirit of God tells the prophet Nathan that **it's not them that can do something for Him, but it is God who does something for them!** They can only do, what God himself grants them to do.

I am the one building a house for you – God tells David – *not you for me*.

What should we then make of this?

We need at once remain silent, and give thanks and praise to God.

Christmas is the start, of the building work on the house that God wished to donate to David, because God made a prophecy; in fact, the passage concludes: *when you will sleep* – i.e., when you will have died – *I will summon a descendant for whom I will build this house, he will be a son for me and I will be his father*.

The only true house we can worship God in, the only true temple whereby we can worship God, is our concrete living, our life, our humanity. And a life, a humanity that are the fruit of welcoming God's project, God's master plan and execution. As He declared: *I will build a house*. It is Him that builds it, and **He does so by bearing Jesus in our hearts**.

If we really want to give praise to God, let's allow God to build His house in our hearts, in our lives, in our actions, in our worldly existence...

The only true way to praise God is to let Him build His house in us.

Thanks be to God.