

This morning Liturgy presents us two wonderful utterances by Jesus, which **could completely transform our relationship with the world and with God**, if we were able to totally assimilate them in our life, not intellectually, but as a living experience so as to become integral part of our way of thinking and feeling.

I recommend to read the entire passage of today's Gospel. In my homily I would like to draw your attention on two sentences:

*Do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.*

And below:

*Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.*

My dearest brothers and sisters, our life normally tends to realize happiness through the legitimate satisfaction of our human nature needs, and above all through the affective realization with the most important persons in our life (parents, children, friends,...).

Let us reflect, we are completely happy and joyful when we are in excellent physical and psychological conditions and when our relationships are in harmony.

Today's Gospel tells us of a particular joy the disciples experience, since they participate to Jesus' saving action.

They have been sent to preach, to make miracles, to free men from the devil's influence; obviously they are full of joy.

But the Lord, looking at their joy, reminds them a fundamental truth: *do not rejoice for these worldly events*.

In the end, you have subdued the devils, but you did it in my name, on my behalf; the issue is not if you are able to subdue the devils, but: ***rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.***

**There is a special joy which comes from being citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, the awareness of being in communion with God, to be friends of God: this is the most important thing.**

When father Tardif was in Milan, he used to celebrate the Holy Mass and he announced some miracles that were about to occur. The people were enthusiast, happy and their faith was enhanced.

On that occasion Jesus would have probably said: be aware that your joy must come from the understanding of this truth, of the gift I have given to you, that is **"you are citizens of heaven"**.

**There is also another bliss, another joy which does not come from material things or from having what we think it is useful or necessary for us, but from the fact of being in Jesus' presence.**

*Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.*

**When we read the Word of God, when we contemplate an icon, when we pray Jesus and think of his person, we should be in bliss;** if we were perfectly in this state we would experience an immense joy that no other thing in the world can give us.

One day Jesus said: *the peace I give you is something that the world does not know.*

I am not saying that when we are sick, or in disgrace, or when we live a period of desert we must rejoice and pretend not to feel the burden of what we live; of course nobody asks this.

When we suffer, we suffer, that's it. Our suffering is always caused by a physical illness, or by a broken relationship, or by a frustration linked to our limits.

These events might never disappear from our lives, they may follow us, but we might also be accompanied by a special bliss: to be Jesus' friends, to have accepted Jesus in our lives.

What I am saying is not easy nor immediate; **it needs to become an integral part of how we live psychologically and spiritually.**

This does not happen through devotions, charity actions, services, nor reading nice spiritual books, but we reach this goal assimilating, meditating, penetrating this truth: **Jesus loves us, we are loved by God, Jesus has come to this world to give us his kingdom, his joy, his peace.**

Let us meditate and assimilate these words; **the most important thing in our life is Jesus' love for us and our love for Jesus.**

If we succeed in assimilating this truth, we will experience a bliss far different from the one that all other things in this world can give us.

*What will you obtain if you earn the whole world?* Jesus says.

I wish you to be able to meditate every day on God's great love for us and you may consider how lucky we have been to have encountered Jesus.

Bless to you, Lord Jesus Christ.