

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

Homily, 24th February 2017

Psalm 118/119

father. G. Paparone o.p.

Today's liturgy, in preparing us to listen to the Gospel, puts forth a few verses of the beautiful and extended Psalm 118/119.

A strong, clear, aware and heartfelt prayer.

We could say it is a cry for help which stems from a heart, knowing that it is not able on its own strength to overcome the barriers that somehow force us into the limitations of materiality, carnality and the intellectual limitations...

The psalmist tells us that the real encounter with God happens on a different level, in a different dimension.

For this reason, he begs: *Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.*

Open my eyes: what eyes is he referring to?

Surely the eyes of intelligence, but also the **eyes of the heart**.

Intelligence is like a scanning eye, it understands, it analyses, but **we need another sort of eye: the eye of the heart which tastes, savors, penetrates.**

Make me understand the way of your precepts: surely the psalmist meditates the law, day and night, he knows what he should do.

But this merely notional knowledge is not sufficient!

Therefore, he lets out a strong yearning, a heartfelt begging:

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

My dearest, this should be our prayer: a begging to God that he may get us to understand the beauty, the richness, the depth of Revelation, of the *Word*, of love...

It is only by penetrating this truth with our heart that we will be able to apply it to our lives and by this reach happiness.

To practice the law is not in fact the objective per se, but it is the prerequisite upon which may rest a fulfilling, significant, joyful and free life.

May the Lord of Armies, the God of Glory, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give us a spirit of wisdom; may He truly enlighten the eyes of your minds so that you may *Taste and See That the Lord Is Good* (Psalm 33/34).

Praise the Lord Jesus our Saviour