

Text: Matthew 11:25-30
Theme: The wisdom of God

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who has brought us together”. Amen

The text for our meditation for this morning is from the Gospel of St. Matthew, which I read before. Let us pray: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, Oh Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” Amen

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I think most of you have watched with your children the movie Aladdin. If you remember in this movie there is a scene where the evil sorcerer Jafar takes possession of the magic lamp, and he asked the genie for his second wish. He asked to be the most powerful sorcerer in the world. Then, Jafar, with his new powers, becomes a giant snake and he wind up Aladdin who impotent sees how his beloved Princess Jasmine is being swallowed by sand inside an hourglass. Aladdin is desperate to rescue his beloved.

So he tells Jafar that he will always be "the second best" because the genie is the one who gave him the power and he can remove it from him. Jafar, without thinking, uses his third wish by asking the genie to makes him an "all-powerful genie."

The wish of Jafar is fulfilled, and while he transforms into a powerful genie, and says, "**The universe is mine. It is under my command and my control,**" Aladdin escapes and run quickly and breaks the watch glass and Jasmine escaped from it.

Both; the genie of the lamp and Jasmine, asked Aladdin, why he gave the idea to Jafar to become an all-powerful genie? But Aladdin had a plan. He did not forget that the genie had said previously that genies have "**cosmic powers but live in a small space.**" And this was the idea of Aladdin to get rid of the evil Jafar. The excessive greed of Jafar trapped him and confined him to live as a slave and being confined inside a lamp. Jafar got such a power but he was caught by his ambition.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ; signs of power, appeals to human wisdom--those are the things that will impress people of these days. Power and wisdom! Let us take power first. "**Show us a sign, Jesus!**" How often did Jesus' opponents demand that of him: a sign, a mighty display of power to prove his authority to speak and to act.

Of course, what was really behind this demand for a sign was that they did not like what Jesus was saying and doing. Jesus was exposing their greed and hypocrisy, overturning money-tables, and calling people to repentance. And his opponents did not like that, so they demanded for a sign of power, in order to put Jesus on the spot, to test him and trap him, and to discount and dismiss what he was saying.

People still do that sort of thing today. They raise all kinds of smokescreens and put up all kinds of barriers, in order to keep Jesus at arm's length and under their control. They do not want that message of repentance to get too close. It makes them uncomfortable.

So they make all kinds of excuses for not coming to church. "I am too busy." "We need the family time." "Sunday is my only day to sleep in." People do not want Jesus to get too close.

People are afraid of his call to repentance and discipleship. They do not want to admit that they are poor miserable sinners who cannot save themselves. They do not want to hear they are in need of the forgiveness that only God can give them. And they do not think the forgiveness of sins, coming through the message of the cross, is that big of a deal. It does not seem very powerful. It does not put money in my bank or heal my cancer. It is not as entertaining as football, baseball or hunting or video games.

And then there are people who are looking for wisdom. Human wisdom, that is. Something that appeals to their own ideas and opinions. Something that makes sense. Something that appeals to me, to my know-how or goals, or how to lead a better life. Something I can do, from the resources that are within me, to better my life.

Something to make me happy. That is what people are looking for. Me in control. My needs, my desires, my goals. Steps I can master to make things better for me. It seems that our power for control has no limits, but the reality is that arrogance and pride are eating ourselves and they are taken us to a confined place.

Jesus says in today's Gospel that our God, the Lord of heaven and earth, has hidden many things from the wise and understanding of this world. However He has revealed them to little children of this world. Because of the vanity of some people many things are hidden from them. For these "know-it-all" people, the ability to see God's miracles is hidden from them. They believe that they are wiser, but in reality they are fools. They have fall prey of their own lusts, and power.

They have become slaves of their own ambition, and their human knowledge. They are confined, together with their power, in a small space. They have become the "**Jafars**" inside a lamp where they see only a small portion of the world. Now, who are these children that our text refers and that have no much self-understanding but have the divine wisdom of God?

Jesus refers to His followers; those who are in need; those who recognize without hesitation, their dependence from our heavenly Father. They are those who trust in a merciful God and believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. They are those who are sick and need the doctor per excellence; Jesus Christ. They are those who do not deny that they are sinners and seek God's justice in the righteousness of Jesus, and not in themselves.

They are those who are in despair and are tired of running after things that are consuming their life. They are those who recognize that they are finite beings, and in need of a loving Heavenly Father who do not hesitate to run toward them with His open arms to embrace them and heal their wounds, and tell them the good news of their salvation through His Son Jesus Christ.

This divine knowledge is a revelation from God, and He has wisely left this revelation written in the Bible in order that we all have access to this knowledge for our salvation.

And the Holy Spirit reveals to us the necessary wisdom for our salvation who is Christ Jesus. The Scriptures say, "³²**and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**" (John 8:32)

"Human wisdom sometimes sees the immediate cause of a problem but it does not see the root, which always is sin. It may see that selfishness is a cause of injustice, but it has no way to remove selfishness. It may see that hatred causes misery and pain and destruction, but it has no cure for hatred. It can see plainly that people do not get along with one another, but does not see that the real cause is that people do not get along with God. Human wisdom cannot see because it will not see."

But the Gospel reveals to us Jesus Christ who is the truth. The Gospel reveals that we cannot save ourselves. It tells us that our sins are forgiven. It reveals the folly of the cross, which is unacceptable for the refined rational mind, but so wonderful for those who confess that they are lost.

It reveals that Christ died for sinners, not by error, but for love. It reveals that sinners are free by faith, and now the gates of heaven are wide open for them. It reveals that they are not saved by their own merits or wisdom, but saved by the merits of Jesus Christ. It reveals that through baptism God gives us faith and declares that we are His children, and now divine peace has been established between God and us.

It reveals that Jesus Christ is always with us until the end of the world. It reveals that at the Altar Jesus Christ says: "**Come to Me.**" He calls the lowly and the foolish. That is what we are to be as we receive each time this Meal. To be a true and worthy communicant at the Altar is to be timid, weak in faith, disturbed and terrified by your sins. It is to consider yourself unworthy of this noble treasure and the benefits of Christ because of your great impurity. It is to perceive your own weakness in faith, yet deplore that weakness and heartily wish to serve God with a stronger and more cheerful faith and purer obedience.

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord; Why are you here today? You are not here today because you are wise or good. You are not here because you have considered every religion and chosen the right one out of your fine discernment.

Christ says, "**Father, you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.**" It is not to the wise, not to the intelligent, not to the discerning, but to the foolish and meek and lowly. It is to you and me. So you come to Him.

As you have come today, come often to His Gospel. Receive His rest, as He gives it now. He gives free remission of all your burdens. He promises eternal rest through His death. Do not come as the wise and the strong, as if your coming demonstrates how good you are. No, come as the lowly and the foolish, the weak and the weary. His rest is for you, whenever His Gospel is given. Receive it, and be refreshed for all eternity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen