

## THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART

LUKE 6:39-45



When Luke wrote this Gospel, the Church was a bit more organised as an institution, compared to the Church that Mark was writing to. Its members had discovered that Jesus' return was not as imminent as the earlier disciples thought.

This passage before us today suggests that Luke's community needed to be challenged again to live a life of prayer and maintain total commitment to the Lord Jesus. Prior to today's scene, we witness the call of the first disciples. Jesus is in the presence of a needy crowd and is stating the essential characteristics of being a follower of his. He is training or forming his disciples into a new way of living. They are not to be superior to the teacher but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his or her teacher. They are not to condemn, judge or find fault with one another. They are to treat one another with compassion and forgiveness. The Gospel underlines the importance of its leaders to go out to the world with a mission. The goodness in our hearts should be shown to the world around us, in the way we interact with people, in the way we bring people to the faith. Sometimes, these passages from Luke are referred to as The Sermon on the Plain. All those who listen are invited to show God's love to the world. ■

### REFLECT

The beauty of today's Gospel is that it may inspire you to think of examples in your own life where you witnessed or experienced the 'good fruit' of a family member or a neighbour, through the example of their lives. As a priest working in a parish, I see countless examples of people devoting themselves in a selfless way to the care of others. In India where I live, in a local nursing home approximately 75% of the staff are from a region in India called Kerala. Their faith forms a central part of their lives but the way they care for residents in the home, is an extension of their faith. They show care and respect, compassion and generosity. When the weekly mass is celebrated, every resident is afforded the opportunity to attend the celebration if they so wish. No task is too big for these extraordinary workers. When Jesus addresses the crowd today, he draws attention to the power of the human heart. The ability we all have to transform the world around us in showing God's love. 'A good man brings good things out of the good that's stored up in his heart,' says Jesus. The fruit we produce knows no boundary. ■

### DO

Read Chapter 6 of Luke's Gospel and pay particular attention to how the Beatitudes are presented to the disciples.

### SAY

Where there is shouting, let us practise listening;  
Where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;  
Where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;  
Where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.

*(Pope Francis for World Communications Day, 2018)*

### LEARN

'There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.' (Eph 4: 4-6)



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*The Lord became my protector.  
He brought me out to a place of freedom;  
he saved me because he delighted in me.*

**COLLECT**

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,  
that the course of our world  
may be directed by your peaceful rule  
and that your Church may rejoice,  
untroubled in her devotion.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING** Sirach 27:4-7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

When a sieve is shaken, the refuse appears;  
so a person's filth in his thoughts.  
The kiln tests the potter's vessels;  
likewise the test of a person is in his reasoning.  
The fruit discloses the cultivation of a tree;  
so the expression of a thought  
discloses the cultivation of a person's mind.  
Do not praise a man before you hear him reason,  
for this is the test of people.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 92(91):2-3. 13-14. 15-16. R. cf. 2a

*R: It is good to give thanks to you, O LORD.*

1. It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your loving mercy in the morning,  
and your truth in the watches of the night. **R.**
2. The just one will flourish like the palm tree,  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.  
Planted in the house of the LORD,  
they will flourish in the courts of our God. **R.**
3. Still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the LORD is upright.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: When the perishable puts on the imperishable,  
and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the  
saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O death,  
where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But  
thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus  
Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast,  
immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing  
that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL** Philippians 2:15d. 16a

*R: Alleluia, alleluia.*

Shine as lights in the world,  
holding fast to the word of life.

*R: Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL** Luke 6:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable: 'Can a blind man  
lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not  
above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be  
like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's  
eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can  
you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the speck that is  
in your eye", when you yourself do not see the log that is in your  
own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye,  
and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your  
brother's eye.

'For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree  
bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs  
are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from  
a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his  
heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure  
produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth  
speaks.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O God, who provide gifts to be offered to your name  
and count our oblations as signs  
of our desire to serve you with devotion,  
we ask of your mercy  
that what you grant as the source of merit  
may also help us to attain merit's reward.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me,  
sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.*

Or

*Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, says the Lord.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished by your saving gifts,  
we beseech your mercy, Lord,  
that by this same Sacrament  
with which you feed us in the present age,  
you may make us partakers of life eternal.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*