

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time of the Year

(Zephaniah 2.3; 3.12-13, 1 Corinthians 1.26-31, Matthew 5.1-12)

Theme: The Way To Salvation

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus: We have gathered here again in this house of God to offer God our worship, praise, petitions and sacrifice of thanksgiving. The message of the readings of today presents to us the ways to win favours from God and be saved, that is, *the way to salvation*.

Sometimes, some of us ask, "What must I do to please God?" or "What does God expect of me as a child of God?" or "What must I do to inherit heaven or to be saved?"

God through the readings of today offers us answers to all these questions; by showing us the way to His heart and salvation. In the first reading, we are being called to a life of humility. When we humble ourselves before God and in our relationships with one another, we gain God's graces and blessings. The prophet of God, Zephaniah, through first reading tells us, "Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do His commands; seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the Lord's wrath." (Zeph. 2.3)

The life of humility is a life of holiness; it helps us to have respect for others. It helps us to appreciate the good in others and to relate with others with dignity.

The apostle Paul, through the first letter to the Church in Corinth encourages us that "let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." He wants us to take glory in our good deeds and virtuous acts. As a child in the family, the virtue of humility encourages you to obey and respect your parents and guardians. It calls us not to challenge our parents, nor walking away from our parents anytime they are talking to us.

In our gospel message today, our Lord Jesus reveals to us that the way to salvation is the way of peace, humility, poor in spirit, the way of meekness and mercy. Jesus goes on to remind us that standing firm in our faith in God in moments of trials and temptations leads us to God. That when we seek and hunger for righteousness the kingdom of God will be ours.