

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time of the Year

(Isaiah 55.1-3, Romans 8.35,37-39, Matthew 14.13-21)

Theme: Hold On To God's Love!

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ: Our God is inviting us today not to go away spending our money on things that will not last. God wants us to remain with Him always and be blessed.

"Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food." (Is.55:1-13)

By this God wants us to understand that our closeness and friendship with Him will always bring us the joy, happiness, comfort, peace and healing the world cannot offer to us.

This is why the apostle Paul is warning us not to allow anything in this world to destroy or replace our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, or the love of God in our lives. "Brothers and sisters: Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Rom. 8:35,37-39)

Beloved in Christ Jesus, our union or friendship with our God, is that which brings us joy, happiness and inner peace even when we have nothing or in the midst of sickness and problems. Some times people ask, "What gives these people joy in the midst of all their poverty, situations and crisis?" The joy or happiness comes from friendship and union with God or Christ Jesus. Or sometimes we keep asking ourselves, "I do not know why I am happy?" You are feeling that joy and happiness because you are at peace with your God.

Let us always hold on to our God and do not allow anything to deprive ourselves of this peace and happiness that comes from God.