

Sunday Reflection

◆ **First Reading:** *Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48*

◆ **Second Reading:** *1 John 4:7-10*

◆ **Gospel:** *John 15:9-17*

Do you believe that God has his own favourites? as in, he gives preference to the Jewish community, and maybe leaves the catholics in 2nd place?, and then maybe the muslim community fit into an in-between category ; would it be that God categorizes all religions around the world? “...this is a good religion ; then this other such n’ such religion is much better, so I’ll listen to their prayers FIRST!!” No! God is not like that, matter of fact nothing could be further from the truth ;

You’ll see an interesting verse in the 1st reading to-day from the Acts of the Apostles, st.Peter says to Cornelius “THE TRUTH I HAVE COME TO REALISE” he says “IS THAT GOD DOES NOT HAVE FAVOURITES”, then Peter goes on to present a very profound truth, saying “BUT THAT ANYBODY OF ANY NATIONALITY WHO FEARS GOD and DOES WHAT IS RIGHT IS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM” ... The source of bitter divisions among religions comes from a dangerous and wrong perception of the nature of God, including ignorance of the Word of God, and worst of all! Interpreting the Sacred Word of God in such a way that can only provoke bitter divisions ;

An atheist friend of mine who just doesn’t or can’t believe in the existence of God leads a very righteous way of life, is such a person pleasing to God? yes! of course he is! Or here’s something else to think about, why is it that not everyone has been given the gift of Faith? you’ll see a mention of that issue in the 2nd letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, he says very clearly in chapter 3 “FOR FAITH IS NOT GIVEN TO EVERYONE” and unfortunately Paul doesn’t give an explanation why that is !

.... It would seem that where Faith and religion are concerned, there are more questions than answers ; then there's that other painful issue in our own catholic religion! those who have already received the sacraments, Baptism, confession., first Holy Communion & Confirmation , but later on at some stage decide to go their separate ways, why? because they don't believe ; these are painful realities to deal with, so what would you say is the best way forward?

....move on and mature in the Faith that has you here to-day at this Mass ; in the eyes of God everything has a purpose, you and I have been given the gift of Faith for a specific purpose, we will be held to account on what we are doing or have done with our Faith ; also when we see others who do not have Faith but seem to be getting on much better than ourselves in the worldly context, pay no attention to that, again the Holy Spirit has millions of ways of reaching every human heart at some stage ; I'll conclude with a few questions you can reflect on in some quiet corner this weekend ; firstly, do you enjoy having the gift of Faith?

Secondly, Have you ever imagined what your life would be like if you had never received the gift of Faith ? and thirdly how much of your dealings with other people in everyday life is influenced by the gift of Faith you carry around with you??

P.S. always pray a Rosary for the broken-hearted, they are everywhere, just have a good look-around, you'll see them

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