

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY: 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -10th July 2022

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Colossians 1:15-30

Luke 10:25-37

The word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to put into practice.

Deuteronomy 30:14

The end of our first reading gives us the **practical way of what we are to do in order to keep God's commandments** that we hear about in our first reading and in our gospel. It is interesting that they are referred to as the **word of God. Hearing the word of God and keeping it comes with the reward of blessings (Luke 11:28).**

The **parable** of the **Good Samaritan** (today's gospel) gives us an example of **how to put the word of God into practice** in the gesture shown by the Good Samaritan.

Let us bear in mind the following factors: the **Good Samaritan was a foreigner**, he was **not deterred by the possibility of defiling himself** by touching blood, he took it upon himself to help by even **going deep into his pocket**. The two denari he gave equalled a two day living wage of that time, and he was prepared to give more.

There are **two words** that make the **Good Samaritan special**, and those words are used to explain the very nature of God: **compassion and mercy**. Upon seeing the victim, he was **moved with compassion**. At the end of the parable, the lawyer responded to Jesus by saying that the one who proved to be a neighbour was the one that **showed mercy**.

The example of the Good Samaritan gives us what matters most for **us as hearers and doers of the word of God**. The doing part could be **done by anyone**. In the case of the Good Samaritan the **doing was driven by his compassion and mercy**. He had assumed and **personalized God's values of mercy and compassion**. We can truly do what God does when we are like God. **It is our birth right to be like God**. We are created in his image and likeness. **Mercy and compassion is therefore part of our Christian DNA**.

May Almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I will meditate on the **Glorious Mysteries** today as I pray for your personal intentions.

Have a wonderful Sunday.

Fr Callistus