

Lenten Devotional Reflection
2nd March, 2020 (Lent Day Five)

Scripture: Galatians 3:23-4:7 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

¹My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; ²but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. ³So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reflection

Today's scripture reading has repeatedly mentioned about children, discipline and grown-up. Through the father-child relationship and the stage from minor to adult, the reading has made clear the basis and necessity of growing for everyone who follows Jesus Christ.

Some intellectuals described that before Jesus' birth, the law had been like a guardian, who not only nurtured but also oversaw God's people. After Jesus came to this world, with faith and baptism, people who belong to God no longer need the guardian's supervision. They, as God's children, may walk on the path of freedom and pursuing maturity.

Everyone begins to walk on the path of maturity right after his/her birth. From being breastfed to eating by oneself; from imitating the way how adult speak to being able to express one's own view; from simply abiding by rules, to understanding the meanings behind them, and hence seeking for greater good. The same applies to our spiritual lives, which should grow day by day, and have deeper understanding of God, the community and ourselves. It is God's incomparable grace that we may cry to Him "Abba, Father!". This is also the foundation and starting point where we grow. Our Abba, Father, is

looking forward to seeing all of His children growing steadily.

Meditation

1. How do you feel for being chosen by God and able to become His child?
2. What expectations do you have in the growth of your spiritual life? What expectations does God have on your spiritual life?
3. One indicator of having mature spiritual life is the unity of church, how are you going to pursue the growth in this aspect?

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