

Lenten Devotional Reflection
4th March, 2020 (Lent Day Seven)

Scripture: Galatians 4:21-5:1 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²¹Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. ²³One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. ²⁴Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. ²⁵Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷For it is written,

“Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children,
burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs;
for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous
than the children of the one who is married.”

²⁸Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. ²⁹But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. ³⁰But what does the scripture say? “Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.” ³¹So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Message

Galatians is also known as “The Book of Freedom”. Emphasizing that believers have to detach from the old selves, not to be bound by the Law anymore but to receive the genuine freedom spiritually and in life.

At the beginning of the Book, Paul gives an account of his conviction. How he was called and relied on Jesus to be freed from the earthly traditional rites.

Today’s scripture reading, Paul questions if we know our identity. He uses the comparison of Hagar and Sarah to explain clearly Christian’s sense of identity. Paul, in his time, was in the midst of a mixed communities of Jews and gentiles. Most of the believers could not break away the old thinking and came to the salvation. Therefore, Paul once again talks about the differences between being slaved and getting freedom. Those who believe, are the new creations and they are free. They are to break the barriers and not be ruled by the Law.

Similarly, how are we, believers, going to accept others? Not only confirm us our identity but also we need to acknowledge others in the Grace of the Lord.

Reflection

1. Why does God let us become freed?
2. Where is our relationship building with others?
3. Have we renewed our identity with Christ?

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