

Christ the Evangelist – The Prodigal Son

In the story of the prodigal son, it meet seem at first glance that Jesus Christ the Evangelist is not there; that He is not one of the story characters. However, if we follow the readings of the whole week, we see how the evangelist treats a sheep eager to get lost.

In the Prophecies readings from the Old-Testament, almost every day there is a reading from The Book of Proverbs. In these readings we see The Wise (Our Lord Jesus Christ who is the Wisdom of God) is doing 2 things: Breaching the call of Wisdom, and Warning from deviating away from God's will. Thus, Our Lord Jesus Christ, as an Evangelist, teach us that for those whom we serviced, and accepted faith; those we led them to the beginning of the narrow way, we still have an obligation to guide them through the way, that they need to accompany God in their way; this is the wisdom. We should also warn them from getting lost.

In fact, we see St. Paul the apostle – the fiery evangelist –has learned that lesson, and indeed he revisited most - if not all - all churches he founded in Jesus' Name to strengthen them and guide them. He, for the very same reason, wrote most of his epistles. And the Paul Epistle readings of this 3rd week, indeed reflect this aspect. We read parts related to repentance, faith, and walking with God. The Gospel readings this week are all breaches by our Lord Jesus Christ, about the same three things: repentance, faith, and walking with God.

Yet, the more important lesson we learn from Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Modal Evangelist, is how we shall treat repenting people or those new to faith. First lesson is respect. The Father respected his son's will, even it is wrong. Side-by-side to that is Love that does not depend on the person's situation, status, progress, conditions or whatever. Second lesson: patience. The father did teach his son, did breach him, and the son did not respond. But the father never lost hope; kept praying that he will come back some day, kept looking from the window every day. So should we; to never loose hope in any person, and to know that our job is to seed the word, God will grow it up, if the soil was good. Finally, encouraging the fainthearted: we see that in what the father did to his son once he saw him returning in shame.