Saturday of the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (*Mt* 10:24-33): Jesus said to his Apostles: “No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, for the slave that he become like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household!

“Therefore do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.”

“No disciple is above his teacher”

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Today, the Gospel invites us to reflect on the teacher-disciple relationship: "No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master" (Mt 10:24). In the human realm, it is not impossible for the student to surpass the person who taught him the basics of a discipline. There are examples in history such as Giotto, who surpassed his teacher Cimabue, or Manzoni, who surpassed Abbot Pieri. But the key to supreme wisdom lies only in the hands of the Man-God, and all others can share in it, coming to understand it at various levels: from the great theologian Saint Thomas Aquinas to the child preparing for First Communion. We can add embellishments of various styles, but they will never be anything essential that enriches the intrinsic value of the doctrine. On the contrary, we may border on heresy.

We must be cautious when attempting to make mixtures that can distort and in no way enrich the substance of the Good News. "We must abstain from delicacies, but more importantly we must we fast from errors," says Saint Augustine. I was once given a book about Guardian Angels in which elements of

esoteric doctrines appear, such as metempsychosis, and an incomprehensible need for redemption that would affect these good spirits confirmed in goodness.

Today's Gospel opens our eyes to the unavoidable fact that disciples are sometimes misunderstood, encounter obstacles, or even persecuted for declaring themselves followers of Christ. Jesus' life was an uninterrupted service in defense of the truth. If He was called "Beelzebul," it's no wonder that, in disputes, cultural confrontations, or the confrontations we see on television, we are labeled as backward. Faithfulness to Christ the Master is the greatest recognition of which we can boast: "Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father" (Mt 10:32).

Thoughts on Today's Gospel

- “Yes, O Lord, make your face to shine upon us for good in peace, that we may be shielded by your mighty hand... We praise you through the High Priest and Guardian of our souls, Jesus Christ, through whom be glory and majesty to you both now and from generation to generation and for evermore. Amen." (Saint Clement of Rome)

- “Anyone who does not know God, even though he may entertain all kinds of hopes, is ultimately without hope.” (Benedict XVI)

- “The term ‘soul’ ... refers to the innermost aspect of man, that which is of greatest value in him, that by which he is most especially in God's image: ‘soul’ signifies the spiritual principle in man.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Nº 363)