

# August 2013 community day message

## Introduction

Faith cannot be hidden as it is reflected in a person's life. One who has faith is "light to the world". Therefore, in every way he would bear witness to the Good News. Faith and love are qualities that go together. As love is a verb, similarly faith without works is considered dead. Therefore if one is to bear witness to the Good News of Christ it has to be shown through active faith. James 2:26 says "So then, as the body without the Spirit is dead, so also faith without actions is dead"

For reading Genesis 45: 4 – 8

## For discussion

It is said in Genesis chapter 37 that his brothers schemed to first kill Joseph but Reuben who persuaded not to kill him but ditch him into an empty well. Later he was sold to the Ishmaelite for 20 silver coins.

According to the reading in Genesis 45: 4 – 8, how does Joseph perceive the wicked deeds of his brothers?

How does Joseph connect it up with the plan of God?

What are Joseph's responses?

## Points to ponder in Joseph's story

Joseph sees this incident with a new vision. It is the eye of faith. (Gen 45:5)

He recognizes God (Gen. 45: 8)

He was able to see the plan of God even through an unpleasant incident

Joseph was able to forgive his brothers unconditionally and freed them of all ill feelings towards them.

For those who accept God's will in faith are able to see God's plan for them and are able to forgive those who are responsible for the misdeeds that affect their life.

We are unable to forgive those who hurt us because of our flickering faith in God. Isn't it because we allow and take pleasure in the wicked thoughts that emerge, submerging our illuminated thoughts in faith?

## For contemplative reading

Romans 8:28

## For discussion

Do you accept scripture in Romans 8:28

Have you experienced it?

What are your responses when you go through difficult situations?

When someone hurt you, what is your immediate response?

How long do you take to forgive someone?

Share with the community/group an experience where Lord has used a bad/unpleasant incident of your life for the good of you eventually.

### **For reading - Luke 23:34**

Gaze at Lord's death on the cross. He was allowed to be murdered because Pontius Pilot did not want to upset his position of power. The Chief Priests and the Pharisees engaged in a conspiracy to murder Jesus because of their petty Jealousy. Jesus here in the verses from Luke is pleading for mercy on behalf of those who murdered Him in the most dangerous way. It is through His deep faith in God that led Him to this action IT IS TAKING ACTION IN FAITH THAT WAS TRANSLATED TO AN ACTION OF LOVE.

God in return used this cruel action to transform all the people in the whole world to receive His grace and salvation. Jesus in his human form saw this action of God through his eye of faith.

### **For prayerful meditation**

Mediate on a situation that has deeply hurt you. Is it a situation where you were ignored, insulted, tell-tales against you, accusing you with false allegations, you have lost something to your disadvantage, someone not heeding your good advice. Did you see these as disadvantageous situations for you? How have you responded towards the people who were involved in these situations? You may not see any goodness in such situations. If you have been hurt or angry, then that is because you accepted the situation as a loss for you.

Read Romans 8: 28 meditatively again. However bad your situation could be for you now begin to praise God and believe that God is going to turn it into something fruitful. Be thankful and begin to praise God for it. Forgive those who have been involved in those situations.

Pray together so that you along with the community to see the bad situations in the light of faith. Ask for an anointing with the power to forgive.