



WE ARE THE AROMA OF CHRIST TO GOD

2COR. 2:14-16

Monthly Reflection:

March 2021

They could not believe it when they heard God's word. Jeremiah thought he was too young, Gideon too fearful, and the Galilean boy too insignificant amidst the five thousand men who surrounded him. Yet they heard God's word and believed. Their lives continue to be an aroma to believers who meditate on them centuries later. Today, the same God is whispering in your heart "You are the fragrance of Christ!"

In the verses that we meditate on, Paul takes an image from the Roman world - a triumphal military parade that was given in honour of victorious generals on their return from battle. Incense was burnt in honour of the Roman gods along the route of the parade and both the spectators and the triumphant army would breathe in this sweet fragrance as the soldiers walked along proudly flaunting the spoils captured in battle including goods, slaves and prisoners.

In verse 14, Paul compares the ministry of evangelization to the triumphal military parade. He sees Jesus as the victorious general, with his army of apostles. Jesus has won the decisive battle by means of His crucifixion and death. The apostles march in procession to display this victory to the world. The apostles who live in Christ, by their words and deeds, radiate the truth of God to those around them and invite them to a personal relationship with Jesus - the only One who can satisfy them. As Christians, we have been anointed with Christ to be the new apostles, who will be his fragrance among the people we interact with.

The world we live in is filled with people hungry for Jesus - people who rarely know genuine love, who do not know what it is to trust someone, who have never experienced true forgiveness, gentleness, mercy, or kindness. If the forlorn and guilt-ridden in this world would have to believe in a message of God's love and forgiveness, the message has to be believable to them. As far as the message of the Gospel is concerned, the messenger is as important as the message. We need to be life-witnesses of the sacrificial message we preach.

Jesus walked the earth in search of the needy. His personal encounters with people like Zacchaeus and the Samaritan woman, emboldened them to move beyond their past failures and reputation and, be exemplars of true repentance and evangelization. They became His aroma to those around them. In a world where selfishness, competition, and manipulation are rampant, every Jesus Youth is invited in a special way to realize their identity and worth. The Lord of Love stooped down into our misery and elevated us to be His heirs. Aware of this transforming love burning in our hearts, let us seek out those in need, treating them with dignity, providing them with undivided personal attention, comfort and healing.



"I am the aroma of Christ to God". This truth should permeate our whole being through constant meditation. Then we will cease being unduly concerned about our own difficulties and plans, will spend less time on social media, and be present to those around us and offer genuine friendship to those we meet. Though some people may push us away when we reflect His character, yet, there will be times when, on seeing our sacrificial lifestyle and what we represent, many will ask why we smell so good - the reason for our fragrance. Our Christian presence will prompt people to make choices that will bring heaven to their hearts. Let us rise and shine – to be the aroma of Christ. That is who we are! For God says so!!!

