

VIII ORDINARY TIME- 3rd March 2019

OUT OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART HIS MOUTH SPEAKS
– Biblical Commentary by Father Alberto Maggi OSM

[link video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VFW2zslFiM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VFW2zslFiM)

Luke 6, 39-45

He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

"For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Jesus' teaching of his disciples continues and after having invited them to become sons of the Lord, that is to be kind to the ungrateful and the wicked, to not exclude anyone from the rays of this love and to feel even maternal feelings towards others.

Now Jesus warns his disciples of those risks always present in every community, and they were the risks of the Pharisaic spirituality, claiming that the disciples could become the guides and the teachers of the others. No, in Jesus' community there is only one guide and one teacher: the Christ.

So Jesus in his teaching says to the disciples *"Can a blind man lead a blind man? Here, the mere claim of being the guide of the other makes the person blind. The believer is not called to be a guide, the only guide is the Christ, but the believer is a companion, a travelling companion who supports the other, encourages him, but does not guide him. Then Jesus says "Will they not both fall into a pit?" referring to what was the biblical curse of the book of Deuteronomy "cursed who causes the blind man to lose his way"*

And then Jesus again warns, but later he will resume the discourse of blindness *" A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher."* Jesus invites his disciple to grow, to become independent and to be realised in themselves and to not have need of a teacher because it is the Spirit that guides you. God, the Father of Jesus does not govern men by issuing laws that they must observe, but communicating inwardly his Spirit that makes them free and independent.

But Jesus goes back to the topic of blindness and explains what it is, *“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”* Claiming to be a guide, a teacher of the others, can lead to assume to correct the others with a log still in your own eye. . Then Jesus continues in an ironic way *“How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? How can you not see a beam that is in the eye? It is the beam in the eye that shows the straw in the eyes of the brothers, but not seeing the beam in the eye means a presumption, a sense of superiority; it is what Jesus calls a hypocrisy.*

“..first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.” It is what in spirituality is called brotherly correction but when one was able to remove the log that had stuck in his eye the desire to go to look for the straws in the eyes of the brothers has passed . And then Jesus gives a criterion for the authenticity of the disciple, what are they? They are the results. When the results are of life, they enrich life, they communicate life that comes from God. Jesus gives an examples understood by all *“For no good tree bears bad fruit,”* obviously *“..nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit... ”*, So the criterion of authenticity is not the doctrine, orthodoxy, but the fruit that is produced. If a lifestyle and message produces life, it enriches the lives of others, it certainly comes from God because God is the author of life.

And Jesus concludes *“ The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good,”* The heart in that culture is the mind and the conscience, it draws out the good. What does this mean? Those who feed on good inevitably produce good for others. This is why it is important to feed only on what Luke talks about as beauty and goodness, because what in us becomes a source of food is then what produces food for others. So it is an invitation from Jesus to always be at the side of goodness, to feed on goodness to be good people who transmit good to others.