

HEY, CHURCH – DEAL ME IN

DAY 5 COMPANION SHEET

SCRIPTURE CAN STARTLE US

The grace to ask for today is:

*Greater desire to listen to the Word of God
not just privately, but as Church.*

Let us pray today's Scripture Passage
(Hebrews 4.12-13)

**Indeed, the word of God is living and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing until it divides soul from spirit,
joints from marrow;
it is able to judge the thoughts
and intentions of the heart.
And before him no creature is hidden,
but all are naked and laid bare
to the eyes of the one
to whom we must render an account.**

**During the day if you wish (but only if you find it
helpful) you can do the following:**

**Invite St. Francis Xavier, SJ (1506-1552)
to walk with you throughout the day.**

It was while he was making the Spiritual Exercises with St. Ignatius as his guide that Francis Xavier heard the words, "What does it profit a person if he/she gains the whole world and suffers the loss of his/her soul?" The Holy Spirit used those words to touch Francis' heart. By really listening to the Scripture, Francis' whole life was turned around. He was caught up with a desire to teach the world about Jesus. He set out for India, then Japan, and was finally on his way to China when he died. He was filled with zeal.

Francis Xavier wrote, "As to the numbers who become Christians, you may understand them from this, that it often happens to me to be hardly able to use my hands from the fatigue of baptizing: often in a single day I have baptized whole villages. Sometimes I have lost my voice and strength altogether with repeating again and again the Credo and the other forms."

Read and reflect on what Pope Francis says:

"We need to develop a closer relationship with sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, struck as we are by so many forms of blindness." (Aperuit Illis, 2019)

"We read the Scriptures because they "read us." And it is a grace to be able to recognize oneself in this passage or that character, in this or that situation. The Bible was not written for a generic humanity, but for us, for me, for you, for men and women in flesh and blood, men and women who have a name and a surname, like me, like you. And the Word of God, infused with the Holy Spirit, when it is received with an open heart, does not leave things as they were before: never. Something changes. And this is the grace and the strength of the Word of God." (Weekly Audience, Jan. 27, 2021)

"This experience happens to all believers: a passage from the Scripture, heard many times already, unexpectedly speaks to me one day, and enlightens a situation that I am living. But it is necessary that I, that day, be present for that appointment with that Word. That I may be there, listening to the Word. Every day God passes and sows a seed in the soil of our lives. We do not know whether today he will find dry ground, brambles or good soil that will make that seed grow (cf. Mk 4:3-9). That they become for us the living Word of God depends on us, on our prayer, on the open heart with which we approach the Scriptures. God passes, continually, and through the Scripture." (Weekly Audience, Jan. 27, 2021)

"We are the "tabernacles" where the words of God want to be welcomed and preserved, so that they may visit the world. This is why we must approach the Bible without ulterior motives, without exploiting it. The believer does not turn to the Holy Scriptures to support his or her own philosophical and moral view, but because he or she hopes for an encounter; the believer knows that those words were written in the Holy Spirit, and that therefore in that same Spirit they

must be welcomed and understood, so that the encounter can occur." (Weekly Audience, 1/27/2021)

Sing to yourself or recite: *Thy Word Is a Lamp*
Google: *Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet (Lyric video)* Amy Grant

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path (2x)

When I feel afraid
Think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path (2x)

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to your side
I will love you to the end

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path (2x)

And a light unto my path
You're the light unto my path

Additional Scripture Passages:

Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 5-6, 8-10;
Luke 4.14-21;
Psalm 119.97-105;
1Samuel 3.1-11