

# Reflections

Father Nicolas Schwizer

# 143 - April 01, 2013

## Recognizing Christ

Sometimes we are envious of the luck the contemporaries of Jesus had. We believe that if we had had the privilege of living in the times of Christ, we would have recognized Him and, consequently, we would have truly changed our life. Nevertheless, we probably would not have been aware that He was present, and even though He might have said so, we probably would not have believed it.

Let us think, for example, in the Bethlehem innkeepers. If they had known that God was present, they would have opened the door to Him, they would have sheltered Him because they were religious persons as we are. But they believed it was about refugees from who knows where, a pair of unknown persons. And they did not want to welcome them. Would we have welcomed them? How could one believe that God would present Himself in this manner?

Probably not even his miracles would have convinced us because only those who already believed in Him believed in his miracles. And especially because we are so shallow and forgetful that not even one miracle would have produced a lasting impression on us. Therefore, it would be possible that Jesus could be at our side for a long time and we would not know Him.

**Under what conditions would we have recognized Christ?** Basically we understand and appreciate, especially in others, all we desire and hope for ourselves. We only find that which we seek, and only to those who knock at the door has it been promised to be opened. It is our own condemnation if we do not have an interior life nor a religious appetite. It is because we are only sensitive to exterior appearances.

Only those who had a grain of living faith, of spiritual life, would look at Jesus; they felt attracted by Him without often not being able to say why. They felt that upon approaching Him, He awakens the deepest and the most living regions of their being. And they no longer wanted to ask Him who He was because they were sure that He was the Lord. Who else would have been able to reach the most intimate part of their souls? Those who recognized the Lord – at that time – are the same ones today who would have recognized Christ.

Today, Christ continues being present among us. He has not left us orphans: “I am with you all days, even unto the consummation of the world” (MT 28, 20).

The truth of the Incarnation consists in God’s solidarity with man. What is done to man, is done to God; we are so close to Him, just as we are close to our brothers and sisters.

Apparently, He looks like everyone: a pauper looks like everyone; a priest looks like everyone; a saint looks like everyone to us; a host is, in appearance, a piece of bread. **But under all of these appearances, Christ himself lives, works and speaks to us.** It seems to us that in our surroundings there are only men, filled with defects and faults. And truthfully, it is God himself who is in our midst even though we might not recognize Him.

What woman believes that she is going to find God in her husband? It is not possible; she knows him too well, she knows what he is worth and what he is not worth. And nevertheless, we all know the words of St. Paul: “Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord” (EPH 5,22). And what husband recognizes God in his wife? “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church” (EPH 5,25).

Thus God lives in each human being, hoping that we discover Him so that we can begin to believe in Him and in his presence. And permanently Christ comes forth to meet us, in each human being.

Therefore, let us not wait until the last day to know that Christ himself is hungry in our brother, that He is thirsty, that He is alone or ill, that He needs us. May our faith anticipate that terrible last Judgement where we will all become aware that God was Man and precisely lived by our side!

## Questions for reflection

1. Have I thought of seeing Jesus in my spouse?
2. Do I respect my spouse and my relatives as I do Jesus?
3. What help do I give to those most in need?

If you wish to subscribe, comment on the text or give your testimony, write to: [pn.reflexiones@gmail.com](mailto:pn.reflexiones@gmail.com)

Translation: Carlos Cantú, Schoenstatt Family Federation, La Feria, Texas USA 01262013