

Friday 8 May 2020

Ps.119,77: *"Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight."*

Mk.1,30-31: *"Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up; and the fever left her."*

This prayer, Ps.119, is not possible for us if we think of life as something we have in independence of God, as something that we can wait to bring God into or not.

We only perceive life for what it really is when we realise that its ground is the compassion of God, who is *"compassionate towards all that he has made"*, and that life is only true where it embodies God's compassion, that is: where its form and shape is the expression not of our self-will but of our wills consenting with the will of God.

It's for this reason that in the book of Lamentations which mourns the terrors of the fall of Jerusalem 586 BC we find this confession: *"Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail."* Or hear how Jesus says to one church: *"I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead."* (Rev.3,1)

It's in recognising this that David prays as he does. Saying he delights in God's law is not an emotional statement but the recognition and confession that the delightful life – the living life as opposed to the dead life – is a matter of consenting wholeheartedly with the will of God. It shows his longing for God's compassion is genuine.

Where look to for an answer? *"This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."* (1Jn.4,9-12)