

**10th February 2021 – Open the Door to Authentic Change; Give the Truth of Your Heart to Jesus –
Wednesday Prayer Meeting**

Tonight's theme is: Open the Door to Authentic Change by Giving the Truth of Your Heart to Jesus. I can't go through the whole thing of what we have been doing from the first week of January, though I'm tempted to do that because linking everything makes things clear, but I'm going to build from last week's main principle. The first thing I want to talk to you about from last week is, all of us have two natures inside us. One nature is called the nature of the natural man or the human nature. But that's not all we have. We have another nature coexisting within us and that nature is called the spiritual nature. It's not very clear for many people but we have it.

So St. Paul explains that as spirit, soul and body. We have a body that we share in common with all our animal brothers and sisters. We all have a body and they say that between the chimpanzee and us, there are only 2 chromosomes different. It may be an insult to the chimpanzee at time but we are related and you can't deny that. The more we look at the scientific facts, the more it is true. But we are not only body, we are also soul. I've been reflecting on this for years. The soul is our intellect, our memories, our imagination, our emotions, our subconscious and unconscious. We have a soul.

Raising dogs for many years I've found out that even they have some of these characteristics. They are intelligent. I had a dog who, when I took the cup of coffee in the morning, knew I was going to the place I was going to pray in my little room. He will go before me, put his two paws up and hit the latch of the door, open it, go in, sit down and wait. He is having some sort of intelligence. They are also jealous. We had two dogs who were very good friends until one is petted. Then the worst nature of the other comes out. So these are parts of the soul -- jealousy, loneliness, sadness, fear, emptiness, guilt. Sometimes you come down to the dining room and you know the dog has done something. How? Because of the way he is behaving. So you have to go around looking to find out what the fellow has done. Guilt is from the soul and we have it in our human soul.

But we are way beyond. We have a spirit and God has designed our spirit to hear His voice, to know Him, to experience Him and to walk with God in eternity. So sometimes in our meetings we have had the privilege of seeing people whose spirit awakened for the first time and it's so beautiful to see that. Especially at retreats, people will come to you and tell you, they are weeping, they are broken, suddenly a new world has opened up for them and that's when their spirit has awakened. The Holy Spirit has awakened their spirit. That part of us is absolutely real.

But the problem is, we have to choose in which dimension we live our life. Are we living at the natural level only or are we living at the spiritual level? To do that we have to choose what nature we nurture. If you nurture prayer, if you nurture scripture, if you nurture worship, if you nurture the sacraments, if you nurture inner journey with God, you will experience your spirit alive. But if you nurture your base nature, if you give in to pornography, if you give into your base nature and your desires, you will nurture your human or animalistic nature and you become a prisoner of that nature.

So limited to the human nature, natural laws are absolute for us. That means nature will dominate us, cause and effect will control us and our life will be under that burden. Like we saw last week and the week before, in the storm the disciples were completely caught in the storm. Why were they caught in the storm? Because they were completely at the human level. If you live at the human level, all you have is a natural world, and then we meet Jesus whose spirit is awakened. What does he do? On that same storm

he is walking. He is above the storm, he is using the storm, he is directing the storm because natural laws bend to his command, because his spirit is awakened. I don't want to even ask you what world you want to live in. We all want to live in that world where natural law is not absolute and you can bend this whole process.

But the problem is, we are being dragged down into the other one, and that's why a spiritual life is learning to live and grow in the spiritual dimension. When you sit to prayer, I'm coming out of the natural level alone and I'm in the dimension of God. When I read the scripture, I'm hearing from the supernatural dimensions. When I'm worshipping, my spirit is opening to God's life. When that happens, miracles, breakthroughs happen effortlessly. You don't do much. You pray for somebody but then they get healed. Then you know something more than just a good wish went through you. You pray for a situation and God gives you a breakthrough and it effortlessly opens up. Then you know that something more than your good wishes are at work. You begin to realise there are two ways to live: Live under the control of natural law or live in the spirit in spiritual power.

To do that we need the spiritual life. The problem of our spiritual life is this: We can get so used to spiritual life that we can keep it at the natural level alone. We say our prayers, we do all our religious obligations, we go to church but we never break out of the mindset in which we live. I don't know about you but that's how we lived from our smallest days. When I look at my parents they also lived like that. I knew my grandmother and she very well lived in that as well. We can have a spiritual life and still be caught up in the natural.

To explain this, I read this joke that explains this beautifully. The mechanics of a joke is you lead people down one way and then you turn a conclusion to a shockingly different thing. Immediately people's minds are shifted. So this joke explains how we are trapped in our mindset. So there was a king and this king was a guy who got angry and threw anger tantrums. When he got angry and threw anger tantrums, he punished people. When he got really angry he had a set of dogs he kept and if he really got angry with someone, he threw these people to the dogs and the dogs were wild and they ate them. He also had a minister who served him faithfully for 10 years and managed to survive. But one day the minister gave wrong advice and the king got really upset and said, "Throw him to the dogs!" So they grabbed him and the minister pleaded, "I've served you for 10 years. Give me 10 days and then throw me to the dogs." The king said okay and asked him to go home.

So he went home and then he contacted the guy who was looking after the dogs and told him, "For 10 days I will look after your dogs." So he came and brought meat and bones and whatever else and fed the dogs, petted the dogs, got friendly with the dogs and really set it up. 10 days later the king threw him to the dogs. The moment he was thrown to the dogs, the dogs recognised him, welcomed him, wagged their tails and came around the fellow. The king and everyone was shocked and they asked him how he did that. He said, "I served the king for 10 years but I served the dog for 10 days and they were grateful." So the king felt really remorseful and said, "Yes, I have also learnt a bitter lesson from this." So somebody asked him what the lesson was. He said, "I learnt to get rid of the dogs and put some crocodiles."

That's what happens when your mindset doesn't change with new information. Whatever new information you get, you fit it in to your frame. That's what you call growing old. They say pointless talking to because their mindset never changes. Why? Because you're putting all the new information into the same frame. I think sometimes spirituality has become like that. We are putting all the right information into the same frame and we are remaining little juveniles in the language and the life of the Spirit.

So how does one break this frame and how does one find the new life of the spirit on a daily basis? That's what we have been reflecting from last week. That's so important. Otherwise we get used to praise and worship, we get used to sermons and then we become spoiled. We want an excellent sermon or it's no use. We want to be entertained, we want the worship and the music to be fantastic. But what did it do for you? Nothing much. I remained the same after that. What's the point? When we were converted it was not the music that converted us, it was not the excellent sermons. It was the Holy Spirit giving us a breakthrough.

For that, God has given us a great gift called the four steps. Four steps where we shift from the natural into the supernatural. Last week we looked at the first step: Come as you are, I love you. Normally come as you are I love you means coming to Jesus, but today I want to tell you, we'll change that a little bit to break out of our frame into the spiritual realm. Come as you are, I love you is to come to the feet of the Father. We have the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In the first step we come to the feet of the Father. Why do we come to the feet of the Father as we are? We want to learn from Him who we are. We have learnt from each other who we are and what we are. We have learnt what colour we are, what caste we are, what families we are, we have learnt from each other and we have got a worldly identity. But that may not be what God has for us.

So when you say come as you are, I love you, I come to the feet of the Father and I receive from Him His vision for myself. Every morning I shift from my frame to God's revelation. So Jesus is the Word of God, Jesus is God's heart and mind. So we look at Jesus first of all and we ask, who are you? How does the Father see you? Then we learn from him who we are. So let's look at who Jesus is to the Father. It's in John 16:28. Jesus is explaining how he sees himself and I think this is so important:

John 16:28

I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.

In other words, Jesus is explaining: My life begins before I was born. In actual fact, theologically his life didn't begin because he always lived with the Father, but his life existed before he was born and not only that, his life continues after he is gone from here. So to understand Jesus we have to see how he sees himself and the revelation of the Father. Jesus' life didn't start here and neither does it end here. That's why the cross can be a part of his life. That's why his sufferings have meaning. That's why his death has a purpose. If he had stopped here everything was finished with death. He has come from the Father and is returning to the Father and he is now telling us, "That's how I see myself."

Now we have to ask ourselves, who are we?

Ephesians 1:4

For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world...

When were we chosen? Before the creation of the world. Were our parents there then? Were our grandparents there? The Sinhalese race? The Tamil race? The earth? No! In other words, our creation is even before time has begun. So I think we have to remind ourselves, our real parents, our true parents are not our mother and father. Of course they are the ones who brought us to the earth but who are our real parents? God Himself. It is He who chose in this year, in this time, I am sending this man, this woman to the world. He chose us in Him before the beginning of the world and He has a purpose for us. When He sent each of us, He has a purpose for us, a job to do.

There are two ways of travelling abroad. One is you travel on your own expenses and then you count every cent. You look at the hotel, the budget, how you're going to stay there, what is the taxi cost, if you visit a place what is the entrance fee. But there is another way to travel. You travel on company account. You have been sent on a job and when you're sent on company account, you don't count the cost because you know everything is provided.

If we realised that we have come from God's heart with a purpose from God and we fulfill that purpose, everything else is provided. It's an amazing truth. Everything is provided at the right time by God. Many people think it's a miracle and it only happens to them. It happens because you're doing His purpose and His plan here on earth. For that if you need 100 million you get it because it's His purpose and plan. Why is that? Because we are in tune with His plan for our life. Discovering this every morning is so important. I have come from God's heart and today, if I am in sync with him, in tune with him, everything else is provided for.

Over the years I can tell you from our own experience, it's absolutely true. But if you want God to provide everything you want and you're doing whatever you like, it won't happen because you're not in the flow of the Spirit. In that flow everything is provided for. It's an amazing move of God.

So now we have the first answer. We have also existed before time and we have a purpose here on earth. But where are we going? What's the ultimate purpose of our life? Are we going to have sunset retirement home? How many years? 2 years, ambulance and off. We have a retirement home right in front of our house, and every few days you get an ambulance coming because that's the way of nature. One day it will come for us, for whom the bells toll. One day the bells will ring for us. We expect the bells to ring for our marriage but not for our death. Bells will ring. So what's the purpose of our life?

John 14:2

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

Already the room is booked, the tour is set, the place is established. Jesus says, "I am going there to prepare a place for you." But here we are not worried about where we are going to spend millions of years. We are worried about the fight we are having over the piece of land here. Brother fighting with sister, sister angry with brother, cheating the parents and so many issues because we have got caught to the natural level only. So it's good to sit in prayer and read this text to ourselves. Jesus has prepared a place for me where I will be for millions of years. Don't spoil it, don't get caught here and get lost. Sometimes when we get angry we lose our bearings and say the most terrible things and we damage the best relationships, and after that we regret. We lost it. Why is that? We lost the perspective of where we have come from and where we are going.

What is the role of Jesus in our life? It is beautifully given to us:

John 14:3

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back to take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Jesus is coming back not to get us the lottery, not to buy us the latest car, not to make me the chairman of the company -- if I have to become the chairman for the higher purpose of God, yes, but he is not

coming back to make me the chairman. Why is he coming back? He is coming back as the risen Christ. He is coming back so that He can take me into that destiny He has for us. That's why He came back. If you miss that concept we get caught up in crocodiles and dogs. Everything is understood at our level only. Jesus gave me this, praise the Lord. That guy was against me and I prayed and he suddenly died, praise the Lord. So-and-so never got the promotion but I got it, praise the Lord.

We have made an idol out of Christ. Those are the idols, not just some statue made out of some substance which is a reminder of who Christ is. The real idol is we create an image according to our own understanding and we worship that Christ, asking Him to give us what we want. We spend a whole lifetime entrapped there. Here it is, beautifully given to us: I'm coming back to take you there. The booking is made, everything is ready. I'm taking you to be with me where I am, millions of years. Don't leave your passport and go.

How does one enter into this dimension? First of all come as you are. Then the second step to enter into the gift Jesus has given us, give the truth of your heart to Jesus. Now we are meeting Jesus. In the first step we met the Father. In the second step we are meeting Jesus. For Jesus to take us there, we have to give him all our baggage. That's when we tell him about the struggle that is in our hearts. "Lord, though I want to live in the spirit, my nature makes me fall into the flesh, my brokenness comes out, the temptations come and work inside of me and I'm pulled down." I give Him the truth that He can do a miracle inside of us. That's what happens everyday for me. Everyday there is more than enough. It seems to be that the more the Lord seems to be speaking to me, the more I can see the brokenness that's hidden inside. Sometimes you feel ashamed and wonder, how long is He going to tolerate me? How long will this nature remain that is hidden inside? I give Him that truth. Sometimes you become discouraged. I have this sinfulness and brokenness hidden inside me. How long is it going to be?

But then we remember nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. When I'm really down I use Romans 8:38. That's the advantage of reading the scripture, you know where God has spoken. Romans 8:38 speaks deeply into my spirit:

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If you don't know the scripture we will focus on the devil. For a lot of people their entire ministry is focused on the devil -- the devil will come, the devil will do this and then they dance the devil also. Why? Because they are convinced that the devil is powerful. The devil is powerful to those at the natural level, not to those who are at the dimension of the spirit. Here it is said that not only the devil but not even an angel can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. No height, no depth. That love, trusting in that love, I give Him the truth.

If you don't break the frame, you're gone. We have seen the power of the devil in the world and we have seen people being inflicted and we are assuming that the devil is some powerful. Yes, for the natural level but not for the divine. The moment you are in the spirit it's a different rule all together. Nothing can separate us from this love. Because of that, confident, we give Him the truth of our hearts.

Tonight I want to tell you when you do that what happens. I want to use one verse of scripture to explain the miracle of what God does. Today we can use that language of inoculation. We want to be immunised from the virus. There is an inoculation of the spirit that God brings into our life that changes everything inside. What is that inoculation?

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

I am only going to take the top part of this. The message of salvation is so beautiful and it can only be realised in spiritual intelligence and not mere human intelligence. The language of spiritual intelligence is faith and not understanding. Therefore we need to have faith and it will filter down into understanding. Look at this first part: I have been crucified with Christ. What does it mean? If I ask you, what we have done is, we have taken things we can't understand and we explain it at the human level. That has no effect after that. I have been crucified with Christ.

To understand that we need to know a little bit of the Old Testament. In the Old Testament when people wanted forgiveness from God and to be right with God, they had a method. The method was animal sacrifice. In the temple of Jerusalem there was something called animal sacrifice. What animal was sacrificed? It was most often what they called an unblemished lamb. They checked the lamb to see whether there was something wrong with the lamb. If there was a skin blemish, that lamb was not selected. Only a perfect lamb, and that also only a lamb that had not yet matured. So you have to ask the question why. Unblemished means perfect and a lamb is still innocent. In the Old Testament understanding, it is only the blood of an innocent that can actually compensate for the guilt of the guilty. Otherwise you can catch the criminals and give them, offer them as sacrifice. Even in other traditions like the Incas it was always the young, the innocent, the beautiful. This understanding is like it has been written into our DNA.

This Old Testament concept revealed by God was fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ:

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus, the Bible will tell us and tradition will confirm, he was born without sin. The Catholic Church teaches us that not only Jesus but his mother was conceived without sin. Why? There is a purpose for that. Those days I used to fight with the Lord and say, "It's easy for you. You didn't have any sin so you don't have the struggles that we have. You're born without sin, no parental inheritance of genetic problems, no brokenness. You could have lived as God here on earth! It's only later I understood the meaning of why he was born without sin. Why? Because he was born to become the lamb that was going to be slain. So a tainted lamb cannot be offered in sacrifice. He was born without sin and he lived without sin and he died without sin.

Then, because he was born without sin, because he lived without sin, because he died without sin, that doesn't mean he was a stranger to sin. It is said God made him who had no sin to be sin for us. The Bible teaches us, he didn't carry his own sin. Because he had no sin, he carried your sin and my sin to the cross. He carried your nature and my nature to the cross. This is the message of salvation and I can tell you, when we were children, we didn't have a clue. We didn't understand any of this. If you listen to the words

of the mass carefully, every mass we celebrate this in the words of the consecration. We celebrate this beautiful sacrifice -- the sacrifice of himself.

In the natural realm, all of us have failed the exam and all have to go to hell. So what did God do? He sent His own son to sit the exam. He carried all of us in himself and he passed the test. But not only did he pass the test, he made all of us right with God. He reconciled us with God. He paid the price for our sin, he opened the gates in heaven, he has opened the rooms, he has allocated everything and said, "Because of me you can live forever in heaven."

That is one part of the message of salvation. He took my place, he carried my sinful and nailed it to the cross and now the opportunity to live forever in heaven has been given to us, so don't lose it. How do we receive it? How do we possess it?

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

This is the second part which we never heard and was not explained. Now after he died on the cross, he returned as the risen Lord. But now where is He living? "I no longer live but Christ lives in me." This second part of salvation many people have never reflected. In fact that's the Eucharist. The Eucharist is Jesus risen from the dead, has come back, to live inside of me. To do what? So that He can bring these two natures together -- my broken, human nature and His divine, resurrected nature now living inside our hearts.

That's why in the gospel of John it is said when the Risen Christ came to the disciples, he showed them his hands. What were on his hands? Wounds. Then he showed his side. What was on his side? Wounds. Why did he show the wounds? That's the human nature. But he not only had the human nature but he also had the divine. He could come through the walls. He was the resurrected Lord. He was the Lord of the universe. That's why he said, "Peace." He has reconciled both natures inside him.

When you believe in Jesus Christ, not only do you get a ticket and a reservation in heaven, the door is open, the visa is given, the passport is there and we can go there. Not only that but the presence of Christ inside us assures us the nature of Jesus Christ fusing with my human nature will make me a new creation. Not for after I die but for right now. That I don't have to live with my woundedness dominating me, I don't have to live with my brokenness as my natural state. Because Christ has risen and come to live inside of me, I believe in Him, I feed on that truth and I allow Him to become my nature. Little by little in the spiritual journey, my wounded, broken nature is fused with the nature of Christ and His nature begins to manifest.

The beautiful example of this is Padre Pio. Why do you think he had the stigmata? Because in fusing with Christ, his human nature completely fusing with the nature of Jesus Christ in a spiritual journey, the very nature of Christ manifests in his physical body. Many of us were there when we went to the place where his body is kept and we saw his preserved body. Why do you think his body is preserved? By what power? By the indwelling Jesus Christ who indwelt him while he was here. Consciously he allowed him to be saviour and Lord in his life. So it's not a case of achieving, it's not a case of breaking the barriers yourself -- that's self effort. It's a case of believing. I'm believing in the miracle of salvation. Every morning I shift to that. Every evening I renew that. Every night I live inside that. I'm living in that spiritual reality.

Somebody told Padre Pio because you're thinking all the time of Christ you have got the wounds of Christ. He told the man, go and tell him, if you all the time think of a bull will you get horns? That was Padre Pio's

answer. Thank God saints had humour. At the natural level we are assuming there is no supernatural and we are analysing everything like the dogs and the crocodile. You will never come out of your perceptions. We are stuck with it. We rationalise every miracle, what is not natural we don't believe and if there is no natural explanation we reject it, and we are caught up in the natural laws of this world.

Giving the truth of your heart, I embrace salvation. What is salvation? Jesus carried my nature to the cross and he opened the door to righteousness with God and a place in heaven. Not only that, He has come back to live inside of me and to fuse with my nature. That's why he showed his wounds. His divine nature fusing with mine as I yield to Him, as I believe Him, as I accept Him it will manifest. That's why the Bible says salvation is by faith.

One day there was a priest we met in England and he became a good friend of ours later. After some time he told me, "To tell you sincerely, I never thought that charismatics were intelligent." Why is that? He assumed if you believe without a reason then something is wrong with you. That was the education, that was the knowledge base. If you believe and there's no process it's not true. But for us this miracle is by faith and faith is simply because we have not grown up yet to understand fully what God had done. It is like taking the pythagoras theorem and going to the cow in the field and explaining to the cow how the pythagoras theorem works. The cow will be more interested in eating that paper. That's all we are interested in with Jesus. What can you give me? Can you give me this money? Can you get me this? Can you get me that? We are caught in this.

That's why the model of Abraham is given to us. God gave him a promise and it looked absurd. He was 100 years old and he was told he was going to be given a son. It was absurd. His wife laughed. Then God asked who laughed and she said, "I didn't laugh." He said, "Before next year you will have a child." It was an impossible child, after 100 years. It is from that child that the races and the salvation of the world was born.

So we are also invited: Don't look for evidence but believe. Believe when Jesus died on the cross, innocent, he paid the price that the gates of heaven are open for us, we are reconciled with the Father and we will live with Him forever. That's our salvation but that's not all. John 14:3 says I have come back to take you. How is He taking us? He comes to live inside us in the Holy Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist reveals this whole thing but sometimes we celebrate the Eucharist and don't believe a word of it. Intellectually we have lost it.

The beauty of it is the fusion of our two natures. The resurrected Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, fusing with my nature. His blood flowing in my bloodstream, His wisdom flowing through my mind, His purity in my heart, His nature quietly transforming my nature. If anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come.

Let me finish with something beautifully given to us by St. Paul:

2 Corinthians 5:13

If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God...

Why did he say that? Because people said he was crazy. In the sermon he preached in front of the king, at the end of the Acts of the Apostles, the king said, "Saul your great learning has driven you out of your

mind," when he spoke about the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the life of the forgiveness of sin. St. Paul embraced it. He says:

2 Corinthians 5:13

If we are out of our mind it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

That is to explain the message of salvation. You believe the revelation and you use your logic, your understanding, your intelligence to explain what you believe.

As we worship we ask the Lord to make it real in our life. Remember, from tomorrow come as you are to the feet of the Father and pick up from the Father who you are. I have come from His heart. Pick up from Jesus where you are going. I am returning. He has prepared a place for me and He is coming back to take me. Then cooperate with Him, He is your Saviour. How do you do that? Give the truth of your heart. This is what my prison is, this is what my struggle is. Give it to Him. Then embrace the message of salvation. I have been crucified with Christ. The doors are open, the ticket is given, the place is booked. I have been crucified with Christ and not I now but Christ who lives in me. Invite him to become more manifest in your life. Let his nature be the nature that becomes more dominant in our day. Ask his wisdom to come in, his revelation to move in our hearts in the most powerful way.