



Gospel Way of Life

“Strive after perfection with single-minded devotion” Mother Eliswa.

Word of God in itself has power (Jh:15\3). The significance of living our life according to the Word of God can be explained in the light of Lk.5\1-11 “Vocation of St. Peter”. New spirituality in the third millennium is the contemplation of the Word of God. This passage invites us to fall in love with the Word of God. Let us be the doers of the Word of God; like a house build on the rock, the firm foundation of the Word of God.

Simon Peter an experienced fisherman had worked whole night and caught nothing. Now he is tired as well as frustrated. In that situation Jesus a carpenter by profession asks him to put the net in deep water. Peter had tried all the trick possible to catch fish and didn’t succeed. It was really difficult from the point of rationality to obey Jesus. Yet Peter over looks his reason, skill and decides to put the net in the deep water. Indeed a miracle in his life just because he listened to Jesus and obeyed Him.

Merits of Gospel way of life of Mother Eliswa:-

1. *Observation of Jesus Word in the silence of the cave made impossible possible.*
2. *Kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament Mother Eliswa heard the voice of God, “Open your heart to the priest” and she called for Fr. Leopold her confessor and spiritual director.*
3. *Greatest miracle was the intervention of Fr. Leopold OCD in the life of Mother Eliswa. She discovered her vocation.*
4. *From then onwards there is change of her identity. She is not just a mother to her daughter Anna but spiritual mother of innumerable souls.*
5. *She was able to inculcate in her sisters a sense of reaching out to others in charity, sensitiveness to the needs of women. Word of God makes us generous. Those who hear the Word of God and treasure it in their hearts will be my brothers and sisters and mothers.*
6. *A sense of renunciation takes place in the heart of Mother Eliswa. She gives up her ancestral home and lives in bamboo hut.*
7. *She was also able to instill in her daughter Anna and sister Thresia the desire of following the Master.*

Later on we see that her simple lifestyle based on Gospel values influenced many young people to Jesus. Here is a question to all of us. Are we able to live our lives based on Gospel values?

Word of God is the rich source of divine intervention in discerning the vocation to religious life. It is a means to attain Christian perfection, cost and demands of radical living, dimensions of discipleship and precisely we learn the art of prayer, breath of religious life. Therefore, Mother Eliswa was right in choosing the Gospel way of life for her sisters. In her ordinary way she has lived extraordinary life which has attracted not only those who to belong to the Congregation of Teresian Carmelites but even the Church in Kerala and India. With her holy life she has won the hearts of many.

I am inspired by Mother Eliswa’s Gospel way of life to turn to the Sacred Scripture and experience the Joy of Self – Direction by Master Himself. Bible was for her not just the source of her life but life itself. I am very much convinced that by giving prior importance to the Word of God in my life I can reduce the strain and difficulty of daily life. I am convinced of making my consecration meaningful by opting for the Gospel way of Life.