



My Reflection on the Theme “*New Season, New Creation*” by Terry Joan Salaga

“So whoever is in Christ is a new Creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” –2 Cor 5:17

As I pondered on the theme “*New Season, New Creation*”, I remembered a quote by Toby McKeehan that went like this: “*When you are hanging on [to] a thread, make sure it is the hem of [Jesus’s] garment.*” Brothers and Sisters, what does it mean to “*hang on to the hem of Jesus’s garment*”?

For me, “*hanging on to the hem of Jesus’s garment*” means that we recognize the price that was paid for our Salvation, and with that recognition comes a constant renewing of ourselves and of our faith. In life, it is easy for us to hang on to so many worldly things—money, career, power, pride, lust, etc. We get too attached to smoking, drinking, gambling, drugs, (pre-marital) sex, you-name-it, that we couldn’t even leave behind our vices and addictions for two words: Jesus Christ.

Because it is difficult. Because it is challenging. Because it deceives us into thinking that these things fill the emptiness and longing of our hearts... But these things are temporary, and what’s temporary is fleeting and will never last. Our thirsts and yearning will never be satiated by worldly pleasures because it is only in Christ that we will find fullness and peace.

Brothers and Sisters, Jesus never said it is going to be easy. As a matter of fact, Matthew 7: 13-14 tell us, “*Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter it are many, [but] narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.*” Pope Benedict XVI once said, “*Holiness does not consist in not making mistakes or never sinning. Holiness grows with [the] capacity for conversion, repentance, willingness to begin again, and above all with the capacity for reconciliation and forgiveness.*”

Brothers and Sisters, do we only “*hold on to the hem of Jesus’s garment*” whenever we have problems and need Him to help us out of our struggles? What happens when our prayers get answered? Do we just go back to our old, sinful lives and completely forget the fact that because of Jesus Christ, we are now “renewed creations” of our faith? An old saying goes like this, “A good servant is a reflection of its master.”

When people meet us, do they see Christ in us, and are they inspired to follow His example through us? God gave us the Scriptures so that we could gain Knowledge and Wisdom through His Word. He gave us sound minds so that we could make proper choices and judgments and be able to tell the truth apart from lies. He gave us eyes so that we could see the good in others’ hearts. He gave us ears so that we could listen to the “words behind the words” and the “meaning behind the meaning” whenever we upset other people. He gave us hearts so that we could be instruments of love, peace and compassion to those who need God in their lives. He gave us mouths so that we could tell the truth and proclaim His story and His glory. He gave us hands so that we could embrace our brothers and sisters in their times of weaknesses and struggles. He gave us feet so that we could walk in faith with Him and in Him.

And most of all, He gave us our lives so that we could put our faith into action, touch people’s lives and “move” them to journey with us in the narrow path of Salvation. May this little reflection push us to rethink our ways and inspire us to renew the choices and devotions that we make in our lives. God bless!

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