**09. The Two Wombs**

***In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*** *Ok, we ask for the Holy Spirit to enlighten our hearts and minds, while we offer all that we lived today to God. We trust in the presence of Jesus among us, as we are gathered here in his name.*

**Short Introduction**

I can tell you that today is the climax of all we have done up to now. Last time we spoke about the commandment to honour our father and mother. We spoke about honouring our parents and giving them the value that they deserve and we will be happy….etc

**Life & Family Problems**

Now in life one can find different situations, perhaps bad marriages, obsessive parents in the family, problems with our sexuality, lack of real relationships, solitude, so many problems, perhaps not living up to our own expectations, perfectionism, rebellion, failure, dissatisfaction with life, anxiety and insecurity….etc Where is the happiness I look for? We come out of childhood marked with all this pain…etc

**Jesus solves my problems?**

So can we say that being born is actually dangerous? ……….. So this is my life? What should I do? Show goodwill; make an effort to change things? Where is God? Where was He during my childhood? And if Jesus Christ is my saviour will he change things and solve my problems, heal my wounds, bring some peace into my life?

**Gospel Reading**

OK. For this please stand up because in church for the Gospel reading we stand up, not like the 1st or 2nd reading. Find Matthew 10:34-39. **I read…………..**

So what did Jesus say? If he enters my family he will bring a sword not peace! A sword! What? Is he against my father and mother? He will separate people in the same family. What?..........

**Verse 39** says: “Whoever tries to gain his own life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will gain it.” What? Losing my life to gain it? How many lives do I have? In Maltese we say “Ħawwadni ħa nifhem,” meaning mix me up so I understand!

**Idols**

Ok. Let’s try to understand. We need to go back to what we discussed in the past, like our famous idols. Remember the Golden Calf representing the idols we cling to in our fragility in an insecure world which is like a desert; the idols of money, career, sex, a house, our projects, people, things, ourselves, greed, beauty, and being desirable in front of others, or having advanced technology. So many idols. We can fool ourselves that we are living a good life but our certainty is like a sandcastle that the first big wave will wash away.

**Our Birth & Mum**

Ok. Let’s go to the time of our birth. When we were born, what was the first thing we did?... we cried. Why? etc ..... because we left a secure place: the mother’s womb to go out into uncertainty. From the beginning we were dependent on mum. And there are classic cases of children for whom mum is everything, like the proverbial ‘mummy’s boy’. etc……….She is the one who will do everything for you and she will become the centre of your life and you will never let her down etc etc So this attachment ………….. a form of idol. Example: I remember years ago, a work colleague remained traumatized when his father died suddenly and then had mental issues for a long time.

**Hating Parents**

There is an opposite situation. There are those who hate their mother, those who are angry at their parents because of the way they treated them in childhood. etc………..You can have people in their 60’s who are still blaming their 85-95 -year-old mother for having never understood them, or let them down or made mistakes. Mamma mia! This poor, old mother who should blame her if she has her own defects and weaknesses! **Why is there this reaction**? Because they made an idol out of their mother and they feel she let them down! ....... they complain about this all their life! They feel cheated and spend their life crying about it. But come on! Really!

**Life from Parents & the New Life**

But is it true that life comes from parents and our story is all a mistake? Going back to the Gospel reading, it seems that Jesus seems to be opposing the life that our parents gave us...” whoever loves his father or mother more than me is not fit to be my disciple.....” So, do you think that Jesus is coming to fix your problems in your life? It is a big **NO**! Jesus Christ came for something else. In the Bible where does it mention father or mother for the first time. It is at the end of Genesis 2 verse 24 where we find: “ That is why a man LEAVES his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one”. The emphasis is on “leaves” which is a strong word meaning ***abandon.*** So the child, to become an adult, a father or mother needs to leave, abandon, his parents. Then, what about our life? Is what our parents formed in us in childhood the ***only*** life we have now? So many are happy with that kind of life. NO! God is calling you for another adventure! Jesus Christ came to give us a new life! .............. What our parents formed in us can be good, maybe wonderful, but it is **too small compared with the Kingdom of Heaven** that Jesus wants to give us........ We are called for a new life, a different life. St Paul speaks about the old man and the new man. There is that which is born of the flesh and that which is born of the spirit; that which is born from parents and which will die, and that which is born from God which is for eternity! This is the life that only the Holy Spirit can give us.

**First Life, First womb**

The life we are living now is our 2nd life because the 1st life was in our mother’s womb, where we lived for 9 months. At the moment of conception a great thing happened, the miraculous process of life began, a new life, this elaborate body started to form inside the uterus. Incredible! We felt so well in there, so safe. .......Our brain, eyes, nose, hands ears etc needed to come out of the womb to function. etc........ The 1st life was over.

**Second Life, Second womb**

Then we were born to another life! But again, this second life is a passing life vtoo. It is a gift, given to us by God, through the loving union of our parents. God wanted to give us our existence! What a gift! Now we are in the 2nd womb, which is natural life, a life according to the idols, the securities of this world, the potentialities of this world. We live in another uterus, a long childhood, ...... But the truth is that from this life you don’t come out unless you say **YES to a new life, yes to GOD.** When St Francis left everything for God and actually gave his clothes back to his father .............. he said “ I am not your son anymore, I am a son of God the Most High”. When Jesus met Andrew and Peter, he told them follow me and I will make you fisherman of men. And they left everything to follow him, **immediatly.** This emphasis on immediatly. We too, the things that we doo immediatly are the things that we do willingly. ....... God, in so many creative ways in our life story, is telling us: follow me, **COME OUT**, come out of this second womb. He is calling us to be His children because he loves us with a personal love, Padam, Irena, Emma, Sabrina, Polianna, Andrea, Kadesh, all of us. Jesus wants to give us a new life. It’s like we have an old car we are always repairing and he is telling us, leave it, take this Porche instead. .......etc

**Children of God**

Not all ppeople can be called children of God. All people are God’s creatures but only the baptized can be called His children. And as baptized we can give spiritual life to others through our witness as God’s grace is working in us. etc etc ...... We must be born again.

**Born Again**

I read **John 3, 1-8** Please stand again as this is a Gospel reading.

Yes, let us go to the Lord, he will embrace us and give us the life we are looking for. And we must be resolved within ourselves to have this new life. We cannot serve 2 masters, the idols and God. Yes, we all have pain, big or small, but we live our suffering in Jesus Christ who suffered and died on the cross for us. Let us not do like that rich young man that we read about in Matthew chapter 19, who wanted to follow Jesus but he was so tied to his possessions, his idols, that he went away sadly. God has called you, otherwise you wouldn’t be here. Christ changes your life, the way you live. **Example:** A friend of mine just lost her husband, who was like a spirtual brother to me too. It was a hard moment, for her, a woman faith. ................, but she lived it in Christ....., His love, in her heart, in the loving community around her, and she was resolved and not stuck in the suffering.

**Conclusion**

Yes, follow Him, bring down the barriers, the idols that started in childhood, get our old man out of the womb and be the new man. We need to get out of our mediocrity into a new life of potentiality in Our Lord. And being reborn means mission. We will be able to witness to Christ with our lives, wherever we are, whatever our state in life...........etc

I would like to read the last reading which is from **the gospel of John 1, 10-13** would you like to stand up for the last time?

Yes, we are generated from above by God himself who is our Father. We have a thirst within us that only God can satisfy. (Rolling Stones example: I can get no...satisfaction) ................. God wants to work for, following Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour. He tells us, I will make all things new, knock and I will open for you, yes. **Give Jesus your ok!**