

REFLECTION

BLD NEWARK COVENANT COMMUNITY

AM I HYPOCRITE?

“This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.’ You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition.” (Mark 7:6b-8)

We say that the best things in life are free, like our God given talents and charism. Yet as we continue our journey, we sometimes forget the path that we really have to walk through.

Along the way, when we are given accolades for tasks we do, we forget that what we are doing is for His glory alone. Human precepts teach us that it is false humility not to acknowledge the job well done. Am I a hypocrite? Are we? We tend to focus on what we do within our ministries. To maintain good rapport with other community members sometimes become difficult since our minds are set on finishing the job. Thus, there is a tendency to become insensitive to their feelings and take away their dignity. Oh Martha! Martha!

We behave in a condescending manner thinking that our views are much better than theirs. *“Can anything good come from Nazareth?”* (John 1:46) This verse is fulfilled in our own time. We judge by our own prejudice, not from evidence.

Am I a hypocrite? Let us try to contemplate on what the Lord really wants us to do. Is my heart attuned with His precepts? Or do I do these things to feed my ego and be a witness to all by wearing the mask of righteousness.

Our Lord’s command is to love one another, yet, we create a circle of brethren in an exclusive fashion. Is it not that the church, which is the body of Christ, supposed to be inclusive (universal)? For it is one, holy and apostolic. Am I a hypocrite? I used to belong to a prayer group where our elders refused to walk in the spirit of transparency and avoided talks about fraternal correction and conflict resolution, for fear of alienating membership. They kept the problems “under the rug”. The result was “exodus” among members.

The Lord knows our hearts and we do not have to be striving for His attention, just let the splendor of charity which is kindness, to reign in our hearts. For love, compassion and humility help build our Community.