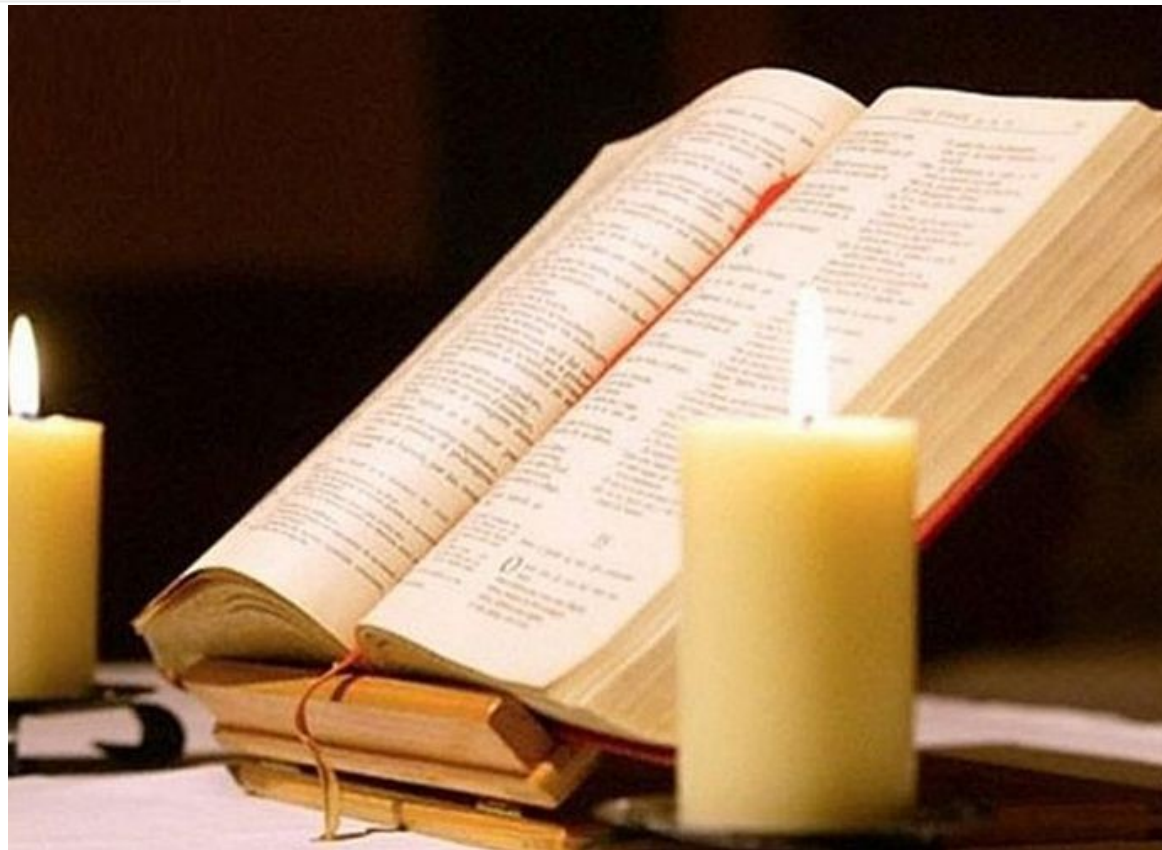


GOSPEL PEARLS

Prejudices about God

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Jesus came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, "Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Are not his sisters all with us? Where did this man get all this?" And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his native place and in his own house." And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith. (Mt 13, 54-58)

People find many ways to justify not believing in Jesus. This is the fruit of a negative prejudice. God has given each person a soul endowed with intelligence, which tends to the truth, and will, which tends to good. When we want to decide for ourselves what is good for us, the will takes over the intelligence which thus becomes blind and unable to recognise the truth, that is, Jesus Himself, as happened to a substantial number of His fellow citizens. Have you shaken off all your prejudices about God that take you away from Jesus?