

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Luke (Lk 1:39-45)

Mary visits Elizabeth

Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are You among women, and blessed is the fruit of Your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of Your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are You who believed that what was spoken to You by the Lord would be fulfilled." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Mary, The Greatest Evangelist

Mary set out in haste to visit Elizabeth. Mary is full of holy love in Her Immaculate heart. Even when She realised Her own condition of being pregnant with the Child of God, She never hesitated a moment to visit Elizabeth who was living far away from Her. Travel in those days was hard and probably took days on the hard road before reaching Her destination. But Mary never thought about Her own comfort and well being. Her desire was to be with Her cousin Elizabeth to render some assistance to her in her pregnancy. Above this natural concern was a more lofty one. She was burning with zeal to bring the Son of God now present in Her womb to sanctify Elizabeth, Zechariah and their baby yet to be born. Mary knew that Her visit to the household of Zechariah would be no ordinary one. It was no less than a visitation from the Almighty God Himself in the form of His only begotten Son. Nothing could prevent Mary from keeping Jesus to Herself - not even a long, arduous uncomfortable journey.

Blessed are You among women, and blessed is the fruit of Your womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. It was not an ordinary visitor that was coming to her house that day. It was the Mother of God. As such, an appropriate greeting had to be accorded to Mary. And only the Holy Spirit was able to instruct Elizabeth on the appropriate greeting for the Mother of God. Elizabeth was given the divine revelation on the condition of Mary. Mary, full of grace, and always living in the eternal Divine Will, never accepted praise and honour for Herself. At the greeting and praise of Elizabeth, Mary's response was to return all glory and honour to God. Thus, She proclaimed the Magnificat: "My soul glorifies the Lord, My spirit rejoices in God, My Saviour. He looks on His servant in Her lowliness, henceforth all ages will call Me blessed....." Mary teaches me many things in this short prayer. She teaches me that the top priority of my life is to glorify God and that my joy is to be from God. She knows that nothing in this world can really give me real and lasting joy but God alone. She revealed that it was her humility that made God took notice of Her. Such is the importance of the virtue of humility.

Blessed are You who believed that what was spoken to You by the Lord would be fulfilled. Mary has the greatest faith. Even though She could not really understand the designs of God for Her life, She willingly said 'Yes' to whatever God wanted of Her. She is undoubtedly the greatest disciple of Jesus. *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it (cf Luke 11:28).*

Conversation with Our Lord

Precious Lord, thank You for the great gift of Your Mother to me. I could never thank You enough for Mother Mary. During the wedding at Cana, You demonstrated to me how important Mother Mary is to You. It was through Her request that You performed Your first miracle even though You said it was not the right time. But You did it to prove how strong Mother Mary's intercession with You is. It honours You for me to beseech Mother Mary to intercede for me. Lord, I know You would not prefer any other way. Give me the grace to recourse to Her always for all my needs. Mother Mary please teach me to develop the virtues that You have: holy love, humility, purity, unshakeable faith, holy boldness and an unshakable desire to share Jesus with others. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.

The Almighty works marvels for me.....(Luke 1:49)