

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection~ No higher authority or power in heaven or on earth

Jesus holds the highest authority and power in heaven and on earth, in the whole universe. Jesus told His disciples before His ascension into heaven that God the Heavenly Father has given to Him all power and authority in heaven and on earth (cf. *Matthew 28:18*). As God the Heavenly Father's only begotten Son, Jesus is the rightful heir to God's Kingdom. St Paul throws more light on the topic of authority. *(Christ) Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:6-11). And He (God) put all things beneath His (Christ's) feet (Ephesians 1:22).*

More than King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ is the one and only Messianic King (cf. CCC440). As the only begotten Son of God, Jesus, by His divine birth right, is above every creature, angelic or human. Thus, He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings. However, more than merely by birthright, Jesus demonstrated that He won the complete trust of His Heavenly Father through His absolute obedience in fulfilling God's plan of salvation for the whole world when He was obedient even unto an agonizing death on the Cross. Thus, Jesus is the one and only Messianic King Whose crown is a crown of thorns and Whose throne is the rough wood of the heavy cross. Little did the cruel Roman soldiers know that when they hammered the crown of thorns into His Sacred Head, they were crowning the Messianic King Who would through His sufferings win for all sinners every grace they need for their sanctification and redemption. Jesus said to Nicodemus: *And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life (John 3:14-15).* Just as the ancient Jews were healed of the poisonous snakes' bites in the desert when they looked at the bronze serpent raised by Moses (cf. *Numbers 21:6-9*), so too will all sinners be healed for salvation when they put their faith in the Crucified Christ Who bore the sins of the world in His own Body though He was sinless. *For our sake He (God) made Him (Christ) to be sin Who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).*

Philip said to Jesus, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us (John 14:8). We benefitted from the simplicity of the Apostles who asked simple but important questions of the Lord. Jesus explained to Philip that His Heavenly Father is in Him and He is in the Father such that knowing Christ means knowing the Father, and seeing Christ is seeing the Father. Even the words Jesus is saying are from His Father. Earlier on, Jesus declared: *The Father and I are one (John 10:30).* For this, the Jews accused Him of blasphemy and threw stones at Him. At another occasion, Jesus said: *"Amen, amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for what he does, his son will do also (John 5:19).* Thus, Jesus is telling us that no word or action of His is on His own accord but in accordance with the divine will of the Heavenly Father. This is how Jesus glorifies His Father. His mission is to glorify the Father. This is our mission too and it comprises doing the divine will of the Heavenly Father. Likewise for Jesus, it will also be the pathway to our glory in heaven.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You are infinitely most loveable! You are deserving of all our love and allegiance. As the only begotten divine Son of the Most High God, You are sole heir of God's glorious Kingdom. However, by docilely becoming God's Sacrificial Lamb, You are deserving of all glory and honor that God the Father bestows on You. *And they cried out in a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing" (Revelation 5:12).* In You all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell (cf. *Colossians 1:19*). All things were created through You and for You and in You all things hold together (cf. *Colossians 1:16-17*). You are the only One Who will judge all peoples (cf. *John 5:22*). You have won God's seal of approval. Teach me glorify God by imitating You in my everyday life. Let my every thought, word and deed glorify God! May I, like You, live only to do God's will. Then all the things I need will be given to me (cf. *Matthew 6:33*). Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.