



Scripture nugget – Love is our origin, mission, vocation and final destiny

Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Your every act should be done with love (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

Love is the reason for our creation. St John tells us that God is love (cf. 1 John 4:8). God does everything out of love. God is the source of all holy love. We love not because of our own goodness but because the Holy Spirit pours love into our hearts (cf. Romans 5:5). Before God created us, He thought about us even before the foundation of the world is laid. *...as He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before Him. In love He destined us for adoption to Himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of His will (Ephesians 1:4-5).* God has a firm purpose in creating us. Even before Creation, He already thought about us, He destined us to be holy like Himself and best of all, planned to make us His own children through adoption in Jesus Christ!

God gives us His Heart and love. God provides the example. Jesus, Himself tells us how much God the Father loves us. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life (John 3:16).* The degree of true love is determined by the degree of self-sacrifice. St Paul tells us that in giving His precious, only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, God has given us everything He has and there is no reason why God would withhold anything if it could be for our good. *He Who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all, how will He not also give us everything else along with Him? (Romans 8:32).* Jesus Himself tells us that He did not come to earth to judge but to save (cf. John 3:17) and for us to have life abundantly (cf. John 10:10).

God gives us His ideals and the power of His grace to follow it. When God created each and every one of us, He destined each to be like Him: holy and blameless in His sight for He destined us for heaven to be His sons and daughters through Jesus Christ. Thus, Jesus teaches us: *So be perfect, just as your Heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48).* In a manifestation of His mercy, God gives us His commandments and teachings in order that we may have a compass to walk on the true path to our glorious destination where God has prepared for those who love Him what eyes have not seen, ears have not heard nor the human mind can imagine (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9). God knows how to reward His children.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, following You is not easy. St Peter reminds us that to enter heaven, we need to endure many trials (cf. 1 Peter 1:6). However, You have promised to be always with us (cf. Matthew 28:20) and through the power of Your grace, nothing is impossible. You have provided us with all the heavenly aids we need on our earthly pilgrimage: Your commandments, Your Word, Your Sacraments, Your Blessed Mother Mary, Your Church, Your ever present grace, Your abiding Presence, Your never failing powerful love. Purify us and flood us with Your pure love so that Your Mind becomes our mind, Your Heart our heart, and we are eternally united with You in Your unceasing praise of and worship to God our Heavenly Father. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.