

Scripture Reading

A reading of the Gospel According to Luke (*Luke 1:46-48*)

And Mary said, "My soul glorifies the Lord, and My spirit rejoices in God My Saviour, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call Me blessed." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Loving Jesus with the Heart of Mary

Seeing Jesus in others. "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.'" (*Matthew 25:40*). God would very much like us to see Jesus in every one we meet. It would bring out the best in us. However, this is not easy especially in regards to those whom we find unpleasant to deal with. The more we purify our heart to be like Mary's, the easier it is to see the image of Christ in others, and to do for Christ through those around us. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God* (*cf. Matthew 5:8*).

Loving Jesus in others with the heart of Mary. Mary, the highly favoured one of God (*cf. Luke 1:28*) is our model of virtues after Jesus. Guarded by and founded on humility and holy love, Mary's virtues are true and perfect. She to whom God the Father has entrusted His most prized treasure, is only too eager to help us, Her children, nurture and develop our virtues, imitating Her character with Her maternal assistance so as to again serve Jesus but through others. Once we consecrate ourselves to Her Immaculate Heart, Mary will gently guide us with Her motherly love and care, and guard us with Her powerful protection against the Deceiver.

A holy sacrificial love. Through the grace of the Immaculate Conception in preparation for Her divine motherhood, Mary is not tainted by any sin. Her love is pure. At the foot of the Cross Mary sacrificed Her only Son, Jesus to God for the benefit of mankind. She was with Jesus till the end, comforting Him with Her motherly presence. She did not rant and scream at the persecutors. Though Her tender heart was breaking, she accepted everything as coming from the hands of God. To love with Mary's love is to love freely without the restricting bondages of sin. It is the height of love that God made a human heart capable of. It is a holy love that knows no fear, no self interest, no restriction. No wonder it has been said that Mary's love for God more than outweighs the love of the whole heavenly court: saints and angels! Such is the greatness of Mary, Mother of our Lord.

Filial obedience to God. Just as Eve brought down humanity through her disobedience, Mary raises up humanity through Her filial obedience which started during the Annunciation when she uttered Her 'fiat' to Archangel Gabriel. Mary may not fully understand all the implication of Her situation but all She was confident of is that Her life is in the hands of God whom She totally trusts. Her trust in God overrides whatever fear She may humanly feel at the situation She found herself in.

Purity of Mary's Heart. This is the condition all souls seeking sanctification must aim at. It is a heart that seeks the good of the other even though the other may not deserve it. It is a heart that bears no grudges or unforgiveness of wrongs done. It is a heart that is open to God's truth and God's love. Being filled with God's love, it never tires of loving and caring. A pure heart sees with ease the image of God in others. St. Francis of Assisi treated others with reverence for this reason.

Mary's littleness and humility. A humble soul knows its place in the grand scheme of things and especially before God. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered...(*cf. Luke 1:38*). Mary's humility draws God to Her. God is able to do great things with Mary because Her great humility and love for God give the Holy Spirit complete freedom to do whatever He likes in Her. Accordingly, God honoured Mary by making Her an integral part of the Salvation Plan.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, thank You for the inestimable gift of our Blessed Mother Mary. So proud are You of Mary that You wanted to share Her with us. Yes, how You must have wished we can love You with the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Help me to develop a great love for Mother Mary and to imitate Her virtues. Mother Mary, fill me with Your grace and join Your heart to mine so that it will become more and more like Yours. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.