

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading of the Gospel According to Matthew** (*Matthew 11:25*)

At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Reflection – Humility, the Key to Wisdom as God reveals His Secrets to the Humble**

**Humility, the great virtue the Lord wants us to have.** The Lord says, "*Learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart.*" (cf. *Matthew 11:29*). The Lord is a great teacher. The Lord preaches with great profoundness and complete authority because His whole life on earth is a living testimony of what He preaches. He was borne into poverty of simple parents when He could have been borne in a great palace. His work was that of a lowly carpenter when He could have chosen the role of a great conquering military ruler. On the night of the Last Supper, He bent down to wash the feet of His apostles instead of demanding to be attended to. His degrading and violent death on the Cross was ignored or taken for granted by many but which only the humble of heart can understand and cherish.

**The humble open themselves to be great instruments of the Lord.** *God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble* (cf. *1 Peter 5:5*). Thus Mary of Nazareth, the little, hidden and humble handmaid of the Lord has become His greatest weapon "for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant." (Luke 1:48). Mary tells us through Her humility God has taken notice of Her. Thus the maid servant of the Lord has become the Enemy of Satan (cf. *Genesis 3:15*), a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under Her feet and a crown of twelve stars on Her head (cf. *Revelation 12:1*), the Mother of the Son of the Most High (cf. *Luke 1:30*), and ark of the new covenant (cf. *CCC#2676*).

**God issues invitation to the simple to witness His glory.** The shepherds in Jesus' time were simple, rough people of no consequence in their society. They were poor people, spending a lot of time in the open, tending to their flocks. Yet, it was these that God chose to be the first witnesses of the wondrous birth of His Son Jesus Christ borne incarnate. Simeon and Anna were simple, elderly people, almost invisible in their society. One was a priest, the other a widow. Both were holy and focused on the Lord. It was these two humble souls that God chose to be witnesses to the presentation of Baby Jesus in the temple.

**Humble attitude towards others flow from our personal relationship with the Lord.** All the major instruments of God in Scripture such as our Mother Mary, Abraham and Moses have significant common character traits. All have great humility in their relationship with God. Mary regarded Herself as the maid servant of the Lord. Scripture tells us Moses was very humble, the most humble on the face of the earth (cf. *Numbers 12:3*). Abraham was an individual of great humility. His humility was demonstrated in the presence of God when he referred to himself as "dust and ashes" (cf. *Genesis 18:27*) and the way he and Lot divided up the land for themselves (cf. *Genesis 13:8-11*). All three were aware of and acknowledged their nothingness before God, and faithfully carried out what God wanted of them without any fear for their own safety or comfort, despite the great demands God made of each of them.

### **Conversation with Jesus**

Precious Lord, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like Yours. Help me to understand that all my achievements and gifts are from You, and without Your grace working in me, I am nothing but weaknesses and sin. For every single breath I take I need Your grace to sustain it. With this shining truth, help me to be humble, understanding that I am totally dependent upon You in all things. Let my thoughts, words, actions and life to be steeped in humility so that I can resist the temptations of the Evil One who is steeped in pride. With an open heart, give me the grace of great trust and confidence in You that I will be content to remain little all my life, so that You can be enthroned on my heart. Make of me a pliable instrument to help You save many souls. Mary, Mother of Salvation and Protectress of the Faith, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.