

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Luke (*Luke 2:1, 4-7*)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and She gave birth to Her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for Them. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – The First Thing Jesus Did

Jesus abandoned Himself to Mary. Jesus was borne incarnate as a little defenceless baby of Mary. As a newborn, Jesus was totally dependent on Mary for food, clothing, shelter, protection from harsh weather and other dangers, and the provision of motherly love and care that are necessary for healthy development of a human baby. It has pleased God the Father to make His Son totally vulnerable and to entrust His vulnerability to the care and protection of Mary, His most favoured Creature. God is comfortable in doing this because Mary lives solely to glorify God, and Her whole world and happiness revolves around God. *My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour (Luke 1:46-47)*. Can we imitate God the Father and walk in the footsteps of Jesus in abandoning ourselves to the care of God's masterpiece, that is Mary?

In choosing Mary to be the route Jesus came to us, God the Father points to Mary for those who want to get close to Jesus. Mary's role in the salvation of the world is enshrined in Scripture. God said to the ancient serpent in the Garden of Eden: *And I will put enmity between you and the Woman, and between your offspring and Hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel (Genesis 3:15)*. In the forefront of the battle between God's Kingdom and the kingdom of darkness, God has placed Mary and no other at the side of Jesus. God is unchanging and so are His ways. His eternal wisdom will again choose Mary to be the route for the Second Coming of Jesus, this time in open glory and not in lowliness and hiddenness, and through the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Jesus submitted in obedience to Mary. When Jesus was twelve years old, He was lost in the temple in Jerusalem for three days. After reuniting with Mary and Joseph, Jesus returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them (cf. Luke 2:51). God the Father was pleased to subject His Son Jesus in obedience to Mary and Joseph. St Louis Marie de Monfort said that Jesus glorifies His Father much more by submitting in obedience to Mary than by performing many miraculous signs and wonders. In submitting in obedience to Mary, Jesus carries out the will and desires of God, His Father and in so humbling Himself, He becomes a sterling example of obedience and profound humility for His disciples.

Jesus preaches God's love through the way He lives. Many of the Jews were struck by the power and authority of Christ's preaching (cf Mark 6:2-3). Where did He get all this? Isn't He the carpenter? Isn't He Mary's son? These were some of the envious questions that ran through the minds of the Jews. Unlike other preachers Jesus does not merely impart His doctrine by words. His life from the moment of His birth to His death is a living testament of God's love which He preaches with unrivalled authority. Jesus is the personification of true love. Jesus is true love. Love is His nature. It comes naturally to Him.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, before You ascended into heaven, You promised Your disciples that You would not leave them orphans. You kept true to Your word. You sent Your Holy Spirit. At the foot of the Cross You gave Mary to St John who represented all of us. By Your first coming to us through Mary, You point out the way back to You through Mary who is the surest and most secure route to You. Through Her perfect union with God's will, Mary is the mold of God that will form God's children who loves Her to be Christ-like and so, in union with You, our Saviour and our God, will together form the heel to crush the ancient serpent's head as prophesized by Scripture. I am so privileged to have Your Mother to be my own Mother. May I trust Her as You and Heavenly Father trust Her. I consecrate myself to Her so that in having a share of Her inestimable merits, I may render You more glory than ever. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.