



**Scripture nugget: A personal relationship with Christ – the antidote to apathy, complacency and lukewarmness**

*He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind (Matthew 22:37).*

**To know Christ in depth is to love Christ in depth.** *He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15).* Who is Christ to us? Do we really know Christ as a personal Saviour, a personal God? Or is our faith merely a mental assent to the truths of God, without us having experienced a personal encounter with Christ? If such is the case, then our faith is merely on the cerebral level and our lives would not be any different from that of a non-believer. There is no real conviction in the faith and the depths of the heart remain unchanged and following the spirit of the world. This situation of the soul produces apathy, complacency or lukewarmness all of which are spiritual ailments of souls who do not really understand the treasure they have in Christ because they are too engrossed with the things of this world. St John tells us the way to know Christ and to be in union with Him is by keeping God’s commandments (cf. 1John 2:3-5). Thus, love of God entails a deep commitment to keep His commandments and live His Word in our everyday life. It is through our meek obedience to Christ’s teachings that our hearts are opened to accept a wider knowledge of Him and a deeper love of Christ and all that He stands for. Thus, we need to study, meditate and live God’s Word. We need to know and meditate the Passion of Christ daily, and understand and appreciate how He suffered on our behalf. Our salvation does not come cheap, and to treasure it, we need to know how much it costs God. The saints tell us there is no better spiritual exercise than to meditate on Christ’s Passion, and those who do this are gifted with special graces. We, Catholics are privileged to be gifted with the holy Rosary of our Blessed Mother Mary. This powerful prayer provides a good framework for meditating the Passion and key events of Christ during His time on earth.

**Walking in the Spirit of Christ.** To walk in the Spirit of Christ, we need to free ourselves from bondages to this earth that is always calling out to us with its false allurements. We are unable to answer God’s call to fellowship with Christ if we follow the spirit of the world. Jesus tells of the parable of the great wedding feast in which a king invited his subjects to the wedding feast of his son (cf. Luke 14:16-24). One by one the invitees excused themselves. One had just purchased a field and needed to examine it. Another had just purchased some oxen and needed to evaluate them. Another just got married. If we want to, there are numerous ‘legitimate’ excuses we could give ourselves to justify that we do not have the time to spend on those activities that would help us develop our relationship with the Lord. Thus Jesus said: *Many are invited, but few are chosen (Matthew 22:14).*

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, our Heavenly Father calls every one of us to a deep fellowship with You because You are our Way, our Truth and our Life. Give me the fervor and love that St Paul has for You. St Paul said: *More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:8).* Open my heart to understand all things are worthless if they do not lead me to You, and to love You as St Paul did. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me.

Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.

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