



Scripture nugget - Drawing light and strength from Christ's Passion

Yet it was our pain that He bore, our sufferings He endured. We thought of Him as stricken, struck down by God and afflicted. But He was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by His wounds we were healed (Isaiah 53:4-5).

I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Jesus was borne incarnate into our sinful world to restore God's kingdom on earth. To help us sinners live a life of holiness and grace to which we are called, Jesus needs to give us the necessary graces. By His Life, Passion, Death and Resurrection, in perfect submission to God's divine will, Jesus merited for us all the graces we need not just to overcome temptation but also for sanctification to prepare our souls ready for heaven. Jesus is the perfect High Priest. *Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered; and when He was made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him, declared by God high priest ... (Hebrews 5:8-10).* Jesus has never been disobedient to the Heavenly Father. In accordance to God's will, He assumed human flesh for the sake of salvation of sinners, and in the flesh, Jesus atoned for our disobedience by His obedience in enduring sufferings and overcoming temptations to merit for us the graces we need for salvation. Thus, perfected in the flesh, He is able to intercede for sinners effectively as a perfect High Priest. Prophet Ezekiel prefigures the great torrent of grace issuing from Christ's Supreme Sacrifice on Calvary: *Wherever it flows, the river teems with every kind of living creature; fish will abound. Where these waters flow they refresh; everything lives where the river goes (Ezekiel: 47: 9).* The endless flow of water, depicting grace, flowing from the sanctuary of the temple enlarges to become a river of living water that refreshes and enlivens all living things that drink of it. Indeed, the graces from the Author of all Graces, impart not just earthly life but more importantly eternal life. This treasure of divine grace is available to us and for us.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12). Through His enduring and overcoming the darkness of suffering and death, Jesus brings us the light of life. By His wounds we were healed (cf. Isaiah 53:5). God made Him Who has no sin to take on our sins on His own Body, so that we can stand in His righteousness (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:21). Though rich, Christ become poor for our sakes so that we can, through His poverty, become rich (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:9). Jesus has endured rejection so that we can be healed of the wounds of our rejection. Jesus has endured a sea of humiliation so that we can overcome our mountain of sinful pride. Jesus has lived a life in total submission to God's will including His thirty years of hidden life on earth in obedience to Joseph and Mary, so that we can be given the strength to overcome our fallen rebellious nature. In Christ, we are more than conquerors (cf. Romans 8:37)!

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, with all my love, I thank You for all the sufferings and pains You endured on my behalf. Ignite my heart with love for You. I consecrate myself to You. Through Your Passion, give me all the graces I need to discern God's will and the strength to fulfill it. Through Your crowning of thorns, help me practise humility which builds up all my other virtues. Through Your numerous falls on Calvary, give me the strength and courage to live a full Christian life of faith, hope and love. Mary, Mother of our Crucified Lord, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.