



Scripture nugget - What is great in eyes of God

Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5: 18-19).

God attaches greatness to the unquestioning obedience of His commandments. There is nothing that delights God more than loving obedience to His commandments. The Jewish people of Israel, God's chosen people had a chequered history marked by disobedience and rebellion. Despite witnessing God's mighty Hand in delivering them from ancient Egypt, the land of their slavery, the ancient Jews did not place their trust in God and reverted to idolatry even on the way to the Promised Land. 40 days of their reconnoitering of the Promised Land turned into 40 years in the desert as punishment by God. Through its chequered history, Israel was conquered and oppressed by other nations. Through their disobedience, rebellion and idolatry, they lost God's blessings, and when the long-awaited Saviour was borne incarnate into their midst, their leaders failed to recognize the divine visitation. Jesus and Mary are our greatest teachers for obedience to God's will which is enshrined in God's commandments. Mary entrusted her whole life to God at the Annunciation when Archangel Gabriel requested her to be the mother of the Saviour in the face of the danger to unmarried mothers at that time. To fulfill God's will, Jesus had to be borne incarnate into a human family, divest Himself of all His divine glory and make Himself a servant of the human race in sacrificing His Precious Blood on the Cross of Calvary as atonement for the sins of the world. Through enduring pain and suffering in His human Body, Jesus manifested obedience in the flesh to the Eternal Father (cf. Hebrews 5:8).

There is great order and filial obedience in the Blessed Holy Trinity which manifests perfect harmony. The Community of the Blessed Trinity is a great example for emulation by the human family. Jesus shows us that the way to glorify God is to fulfill God's will. Jesus lives to fulfill God's will. Jesus said: *"My food is to do the will of the One Who sent Me and to finish His work (John 4:34).* So ardent is Jesus to the adherence to God's will that every word He said to us is from God the Father. ... *I did not speak on My own, but the Father Who sent Me commanded Me what to say and speak (John 12:49).* The Holy Spirit testifies to Jesus (cf. John 15:26). The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ. *He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is Mine; for this reason I told you that He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you (John 16:14-15).*

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, what our Heavenly Father requires most from me is my filial and joyful obedience to His commandments which includes the fulfillment of His will. In these times of apostasy, rejection of Christian values and the legalization of what is offensive to God, I am called to witness to the unchanging truths of God. St Paul exhorts me to put on the mind of Christ (cf. 1Cor 2:16). I should also internalize in my heart the truths of my Christian faith that I mentally assent in my mind so that I can live a full Christian life and not only in name. May the sterling example of Your obedience to the Heavenly Father inspire and empower me to walk in Your footsteps. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.