

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark** (*Mark 9:35*)

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Reflection ~ The Greatest Ones of God

**Jesus, the Suffering Servant of God (cf. Isaiah 53).** As the second person of the Blessed Trinity, there is no other being Who has such power and glory, and is as close to God the Father as Jesus. As God, Jesus could have commanded our loyalty, love and submission as the world and all its contents were made through Him, by Him and for Him (cf. Colossians 1:16). We are His creatures, and He is our God. But Jesus won our love by what He did and is doing for us. *Jesus said: My Father and I are One (cf. John 10:30). The One who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do what pleases Him.*" (*John 8:29*). Jesus lives to do the will of God. *My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work (John 4:34).* Jesus through His life and death teaches us how to love God and thereby others, and to live a life worthy of the children of God, putting God first as in the proper order.

**The glory of Jesus lies in His Cross of Calvary.** When Jesus came to earth in the flesh, born incarnate as a human baby, He divested Himself of all His divine glory. He clothed Himself in human weakness and allowed His welfare as a human child to be entrusted to Mary and Joseph. For the glory of God the Father, He submitted Himself as an obedient child to Mary and Joseph. He came not to demand adoration and love from His creatures but as a servant of God and of all to win eternal life for all with the sacrifice of His own Body, Blood and death. *The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28).* Jesus teaches true love and humility through His submission to the divine will of His Father by becoming obedient unto death. Jesus demonstrates that there is no one who loves us more than He when He died on the Cross to win for us victory over sin, death and hell and to give us unending life of peace and joy. *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13).*

**Mary, the handmaid of the Lord.** *"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:38).* Through her words to Archangel Gabriel at the Annunciation when she was asked to be the Mother of the Saviour we note that Mary sees herself as a servant of the Lord. A servant merely serves and has no personal agenda. In this instance, Mary has been called more than just to serve but to entrust the safety of her life into the hands of God. Mary knew what danger existed for her if she were to become an unwed mother. But she chose to trust in God. Throughout the life of Jesus, Mary stood by her Son despite the fierce rejection and persecution of the Jews. At the foot of the Cross, Mary offered up her Son to God the Father as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of all humankind. Though none of the wonderful promises given by Archangel Gabriel regarding Jesus was fulfilled in her lifetime, Mary stayed faithful to the very end, and was one of the few present when Jesus died on the Cross.

**Joseph, the Foster Father of Jesus.** No word of mouth by St Joseph was recorded in Scripture. However, we know what God thinks of Joseph through what God entrusted Joseph with. Joseph was chosen to be the husband of Mary. The care of the two persons closest to God was entrusted to St Joseph. This attests to the deep confidence God has in St Joseph. Joseph was a just and righteous man, and put righteousness and love for God above his personal love for Mary when He decided to send Her away quietly after discovering Her unexplained pregnancy. *Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly (Matthew 1:19).*

### Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You set us a sterling example on how to love and live as a child of God by Your own life on earth when You came in the flesh. On the day of my judgement, I know I will be judged not according to the standards of this world but by how close my heart resembles Yours. Love for God has to be proven by obedience to His commandments and His teachings and must be translated into genuine care for others. Through Your holy death, may I die to my own selfishness and sins, and live only to love You who are my all in all. For You are the reason for my being, my highest good. You are the Way I should walk in truth. You are the Life my soul seeks. You are the peace and joy my heart craves. I enthrone You in my heart and mind so that Your will will always be my will, Your desires my desires. Mary, Mother of Salvation and Protectress of the Faith, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. [www.twohearts.hk](http://www.twohearts.hk)