

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke (Luke 1:30-33)

But the angel said to Her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; You have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a Son, and You are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Jesus wants us to honour His Mother Mary

Jesus was borne incarnate as a Baby of Mary. When God, the Father decides to redeem the world from sin and death, there can be so many ways in which to do it through His infinite wisdom and creativity. Yet He chooses to send His only Son, Jesus to be borne incarnate as a Baby of Mary. Mary was in God's mind, and was chosen as Mother of the Saviour even before the world began. Mary, God's supreme masterpiece, gladdens Him as no other creature does. God the Father shows His total trust in Mary by entrusting the Baby Jesus to Her maternal care. God chose to give us Jesus, His sole complacency, through Mary. Is there any gift higher than Jesus that God can give us? Is there a better route than Mary for other lesser gifts that God will give us? Will not Mary who is the route that Jesus comes to us, also be the same route for all the graces that Jesus has won for us by His life, death and resurrection?

Mary, the Mediatrix of all Graces. *God the Son has communicated to His Mother all that He acquired by His life and death, His infinite merits and His admirable virtues; and He has made Her the treasurer of all His Father has given Him for His inheritance. It is by Her that He applies His merits to His member, and that He communicates His virtues, and distributes His graces. She is His mysterious canal, She is His aqueduct, through which He makes His mercies flow gently and abundantly (St Louis Marie de Monfort, True Devotion to Mary, #24).*

Jesus as a Child was subject to Mary, His Mother. Scripture tells us Child Jesus was obedient to Mary and Joseph. *Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them (Luke 2:51). Jesus gave more glory to God His Father by submitting to His Mother for thirty years than He would have given Him had He converted the whole world by working the greatest miracles. How highly then do we glorify God when to please Him we submit ourselves to Mary, taking Jesus as our sole model (St Louis Marie de Monfort, True Devotion to Mary #18).* The subjection of the Child Jesus to Mary in no way detracts from the divinity of Jesus who is equal to God the Father, but reveals the pleasure of the Father in conferring His paternal, divine authority on Mary over the divine Child Jesus. God the Father has made Himself dependent on Mary, for His own glory. Such are the amazing and unfathomable ways of God!

God wills that redemption by Jesus is with perfect cooperation by Mary. Mary's key role in the salvation history of mankind is prophesied and enshrined in Scripture. After Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, God said to the ancient serpent: *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).* Jesus chose to begin His miracles through Mary. In His first miracle in the order of grace, Jesus sanctified John the Baptist in the womb of Elizabeth by the spoken word of Mary. In His first miracle in the order of nature, Jesus changed water into wine at the request of Mary. All throughout His life, Mary was present. At His death on the Cross on Calvary, Mary had to be present to accept Her motherhood of mankind as desired by Jesus (Cf. John 19:26-27).

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, today and every day we honor Your and our Mother Mary as You require us (Cf. Exodus 20:12). It is our duty and privilege. At the foot of the Cross You gave Her, the Mold of God, to us so that we can be formed in Her Immaculate Heart to become another Christ fit to enter the gates of heaven. It was through Her that You came into the world, and it is also through Her that You must reign in the world. Grant us poor sinners the privilege of a true devotion to our Mother Mary whose only mission is to make You reign in all hearts. Mary, Living Tabernacle of the Most High and our Mother of Salvation, please intercede for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.