

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading from the Book of Genesis (Genesis 3:13-15)**

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And 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." The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

### **Reflection – For eternity, we are the victorious children of Mary, the Immaculate One**

**Mary's unique role in the salvation of mankind is enshrined in Scripture from the very beginning.** Immediately after the fall of Adam and Eve into sin, God said to the serpent, Satan: *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).* The woman and her offspring referred here are none other than our Blessed Mother Mary and Jesus Christ. Thus, God the Father acted quickly against Satan in announcing the coming of the Saviour and proclaimed the start of a spiritual war against Satan. God named Jesus and Mary as Satan's key rivals.

**Jesus has good reasons to give us His Mother through St John, the Evangelist before He dies on the Cross.** *When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your Mother." (John 19:26-27).* It is obvious Jesus intends that the gift of His Mother is not just for St John the Evangelist but for every single child of God who will surely need the help of His Mother to attain salvation. This is why the gift was made in public and not in private. Our Church teaches us that Mary is our mother in the order of grace and she began her motherhood from the time when she agreed to be the mother of the Saviour at the Annunciation, a role she fulfils till eternity (cf. LG art. 62).

**Mary is the only one of God's creatures who fulfils perfectly God's commandment to love** (cf. The Mystical City of God, Book 2, Chapter 5). As Mary's love for God and others is unadulterated by sin, God's power in her could work unencumbered to accomplish God's will. As a result, Mary's power to help save her children is great, matched by no other creature of God. It is God's dearest wish that each and every one of His children come to the knowledge of the Truth and be saved (cf. 1Timothy 2:4). As a mother, Mary shares deeply God's desire to save every one of His children who are also her children in the order of grace.

**Mary is the preferred route of God in the communication of divine graces for His children.** Scripture tells us Mary is the favoured one of God and is full of grace (cf. Luke 1:28). Mary is full of grace because the Lord is with her (cf. CCC 2676). Accordingly, she is the preferred route of God for communicating divine graces to His children. Thus, Mother Church teaches us that Mary is the Mediatrix of Graces. Jesus, the author of all graces came to the world through Mary. Would the graces He won for us with her help not also take the same route as the Divine Master? Thus, Mary is specially favoured by God to help her spiritual children especially to attain salvation.

**Among the saints Mary has the greatest power to intercede for God's children.** As the favoured one of God, she has great powers of intercession with Jesus, Her Son. This is clearly demonstrated in Scripture when Jesus performed His first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana (cf. John 2:1-11) only at the request of Mary. Through this, Jesus demonstrates the power of her intercession. *God has given Mary such a great power against the devils, that, as they have often been obliged to confess, in spite of themselves, by the mouths of the possessed, they fear one of her sighs for a soul more than the prayers of all the Saints, and one of her menaces against them more than all other torments (True Devotion to Mary, St Louis de Monfort, Art. 52, Part 1).* It is truly amazing God even used the demons to testify on the great power of Mary against evil!

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, thank You for the wonderful gift of our Blessed Mother Mary. You give her to us for our loving mother, the model of virtues, and our powerful Advocate. She is with You in every stage of the salvation process. After Your ascension into heaven, Mary paved the way for the first Pentecost during which Your Church was born (cf. Acts 1:14, LG art.59). Imitating her virtues especially her love, humility and steadfast faith and gaining her protection, guidance and intercession constitutes a shortcut to Your Sacred Heart. May I imitate her virtues faithfully and love her more and more. Please bestow upon us poor sinners a true devotion to Mother Mary so that all of God's children can be guided and moulded by her to be united to You to form the heel that will eventually crush Satan and His kingdom. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray, protect, guide and intercede for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.