



Scripture nugget - Christ's glory is in His Cross

For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1: 22-24).

“And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to Myself.” (John 12:32).

When Jesus died in agony and public shame on the Cross of Calvary, it seemed to be a huge scandal for His disciples who deserted Him. Even when Jesus told them in advance that He would be put to death by sinners but would arise again on the third day, they did not fully grasp that Jesus was laying down His life in accordance with God's will. *This is why the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from My Father (John 10:17-18).* Christ's Supreme Sacrifice on Calvary for the salvation of the world was prefigured in the Old Testament era during the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt when God instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent mounted on a pole so that whoever of the rebellious Israelites look upon it after being bitten by the serpent which God sent as a punishment, would live (cf. Numbers 21:4-9). The once and for all Supreme Sacrifice of Christ on Calvary remits all repented sins and imparts eternal life to all repented sinners. The fathomless love of God is matched by His towering justice. In God's eyes, no other sacrifice can purchase God's forgiveness of the sins of the world except the precious Blood of His Son shed on Calvary. It was the most difficult and most important mission in the whole of universe for all ages. All creation forever exults and rejoices in the Lord because of what He has done for us!

Christ's glory is in His Cross. Because of Christ's Supreme Sacrifice on Calvary, God the Father greatly exalted Him and decreed that at the Name of Jesus, all knees must bend and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (cf. Philippians 2:8-11). The mission was not easy for Christ. Christ sweated blood in the Garden of Olives in anguish at the prospect of His sufferings and death (cf. Luke 22:44), and He prayed three times for the strength to do God's will (Matthew 26:39-44). *For the sake of the joy that lay before Him He endured the Cross, despising its shame, and has taken His seat at the right of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2).* We, too are called to look beyond all our present sufferings and to embrace our cross which is our way to the joy, glory and peace that await us in heaven, our true home.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, thank You for giving up Your life for me. You overcome the shame of the Cross to attain the highest glory that God the Father bestowed upon You. God has called me to share in Your glory (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:14). To share in Your glory, I must walk in Your footsteps. By my Baptism, I have a unique share in Your mission. In my baptismal priesthood, I am called to offer my life as a living sacrifice, like my Saviour, for the salvation of my brothers and sisters (cf. Romans 12:1). A grain of wheat will only yield much fruit if it falls to the ground and dies (cf. John 12:24). I too am called to die to myself, pick up my cross and follow You. It is only when I can die to my selfish desires, my attachments, my pride, my complacency, my will that I can have a pure and simple heart that is strong and humble enough to embrace God's will and whatever difficulties that may lie ahead as I walk on the path that You have marked out for me. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.