



**Scripture Nugget – Christ’s Relationship with the Heavenly Father is our pattern and guide**

*Jesus answered and said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for what he does, his son will do also. For the Father loves His Son and shows Him everything that He Himself does, and He will show Him greater works than these, so that you may be amazed (John 5:19-20).*

**Jesus said: My Father and I are one (cf. John 10:30).** *If you love Me, you will keep My Commandments (John 14:15).* Jesus teaches His disciples that love is proven by filial obedience. The Jews found the teachings of Christ profound and unlike that of their religious leaders. Not only is Jesus the Word of God Incarnate but He is also a living example of what He preaches. Though all authority in heaven and on earth rests in Him (cf. Matthew 28:18) nevertheless He is the perfect living example of filial obedience to the Heavenly Father. *Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the One Who sent Me and to finish His work (John 4:34).* Thus, Jesus tells us that the purpose of His life is none other than to fulfill the will of God, the Heavenly Father. He tells us that He comes down from heaven not to do His own will but the will of the Father Who sent Him (cf. John 6:38). Jesus is so filial to His Father’s will that even what He says is not on His own authority but is commanded by the Heavenly Father (cf. John 12:49). The Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus are totally one in accord of heart and mind. Thus, Jesus said: My Father and I are one (cf. John 10:30).

**It was not easy for Christ to fulfill the will of Our Heavenly Father.** It involves supreme self-sacrifice and a dying to self. Scripture gives an apt description of the humility of Christ in accepting the command of His Father to save the world through His own Blood: *Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:6-8).* In the Garden of Olives before the arrest, Jesus prayed earnestly to His Father three times: *“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet, not as I will, but as You will” (cf. Matthew 26:39-44).* In tremendous fear and revulsion at the prospect of assuming all the loathsome sins of the world and facing squarely the rigorous justice and wrath of God the Father, He sweated blood, a rare medical condition called hematidrosis recorded in persons under extreme physical or emotional stress. Though it was not easy, Jesus fulfilled God’s will to redeem the world so perfectly that St Paul says that in Christ, we are more than conquerors! (cf. Romans 8:37).

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, during Your time on earth, You show us how to love God our Heavenly Father. You teach us to love God with all our heart, all our mind and all our soul (cf. Matthew 22:37) by loving obedience to His Commandments. True love entails sacrifice. You teach us that whosoever that wishes to walk in Your footsteps must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow You (cf. Matthew 16:24). Indeed, You said that unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it will not bear fruit (cf. John 12:24). Through Your perfect fulfillment of God’s will, You merited for us all the graces we need to walk in Your footsteps, empowering us to love God like You do. Remaining in God’s love by loving obedience to His Commandments is the key to true joy (cf. John 15:10-11). Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.