



Scripture nugget – If we can accept it, everything is a grace

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

God is able to draw good from the evil that has been done. The Old Testament account of how Joseph, the favored son of the biblical Jewish patriarch Jacob, helped his brothers survived the famine is a good illustration of how God can draw good out of evil. When Jacob's sons sold their brother Joseph as a slave into Egypt out of spite and jealousy, little did they know that God would make use of Joseph to save them from a future famine in their own land. By the time the famine came, Joseph had been appointed by the Egyptian king as the highest official in the king's court with authority over all Egypt (cf. Genesis 45) and was able to help his brothers and their families to be settled comfortably in Egypt where there was food. God is able to do all things (cf. Luke 1:37, Matthew 19:26). If we surrender to Him all the things that happened to us even the evil ones, He is able to use it for our benefit. Even through our sins and repentance God can make us grow in love of Him. Through the repentance of our sins God gives us a deeper insight into His great mercy, and inspires us to a deeper love of Him and all that He represents. *So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little (Luke 7:47).*

If we do not lose our trust in God, all things can become a grace for us. If we can fully accept and live this truth, our lives will become more peaceful as we lose our fear and anxiety. Fear and anxiety stem in part from our inability to control what will happen and the unknown result. However, our faith tells us that no matter what happens, God is fully in control every moment of the day. Though He gives us the freedom of our will, He knows in advance what we will choose and has foreknowledge of what will happen because of our free choice (cf. psalm 139:4). *For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, My thoughts higher than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).* We know that God being driven by love will always do the right thing. Thus, if we are led by faith and wisdom, we will concentrate on doing our part well and let God do whatever He wills. It is only in this well-grounded trust in God's love and power that we can find true peace in whatever situation. Since God can draw good out of evil, should we sin all the more or trivialize sin? By no means! Sin is absolutely evil and has a cost that is paid by the Precious Blood of our Lord. We should never presume on the mercy of God but avoid sin like it was the plague!

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You tell us through Prophet Isaiah to stop being anxious (cf. Isaiah 41:10). No matter what happens, You are in control. Nothing happens outside Your permitting will. You can draw good out of evil; and everything that happens to us even the bad things can be used for our benefit if we are open to Your grace. With You in control of everything, we have no real cause for fear or anxiety. You love us more than we love ourselves and Your greatest desire is our eternal salvation. Through Your Passion on Calvary, magnify our love for, faith and trust in You. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.