



## **Scripture nugget – Who would have thought ...?**

*As Jesus was teaching in the temple area He said, “How do the scribes claim that the Messiah is the son of David? David himself, inspired by the Holy Spirit, said: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand until I place Your enemies under Your feet.’” David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; so how is He his Son?” The great crowd heard this with delight (Mark 12: 35-37).*

**Who would have thought God would send His only begotten Son?** When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, ate the forbidden fruit and fell from grace, God was quick to remedy the situation. He cursed the Ancient Serpent and promised a Saviour for the human race issuing from Adam and Eve. God said to the Serpent: *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; They will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel (Genesis 3:15).* No one can imagine that God would send His only begotten Son as Saviour! When Christ was borne incarnate into the family of Mary and Joseph, few knew that the Baby was the Incarnate Word of God, God’s only begotten Son! God gave a special grace to the three wise men from the East to know of this special, extraordinary event. Baby Jesus was given no room at the inn. He had to be born in a stable. God forgoes all the trappings of comfort and luxury to show us the dignity and sacrifice of simple living. Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords was borne incarnate into a poor, humble family in order to show us that God treasures humility, simplicity and lowliness which are sterling virtues that can bring us closer to God. By His life of sacrifice on earth, Christ teaches us how to live. By living the first thirty years of His life in obscurity in obedience to Mary and Joseph, Christ glories His Heavenly Father more than if He had gone around doing stupendous miracles before His public ministry. Christ teaches us to glorify God by doing His will. God shows us His ways and thoughts are much higher than our human ways and thoughts.

**Who would have imagined that a crucified convict would save the whole world?** St Paul tells us that our Crucified Lord is a stumbling block for the Jews and foolishness for Gentiles (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:23). By dying in shame in public on the cruel cross of crucifixion, Christ appeared to be a loser. Even on the cross, He was reviled and mocked at by the very people who should have recognized His visitation: the chief priests and scribes (cf. Matthew 27:41-43). Certainly the person of Jesus did not fit their expectation of the Messiah which they were awaiting. They expected a military strongman who would deliver by force their nation from the Roman oppressors and restore glory to the Temple. Instead Jesus came peacefully riding on a donkey into Jerusalem. Instead of overpowering the Romans, He allowed them to abuse Him, pierce His sinless Body, shed His Precious Blood and crucify Him in a most cruel, humiliating way. Thus, Christ fulfilled God’s will perfectly for the atonement for sins of the world in a way that is totally unexpected by those who did not have the eyes of faith.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, You said: *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).* I consecrate my mind and my heart to You. Dispel from me all worldly wisdom, thoughts and ways that are contrary to Your will. Open my eyes to see the deception in human ideologies, opinions and ways, and close my heart to deceit. Give me the grace to be led by Your truth and light by adhering to Your Commandments. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.