



Day 12: Listening and Receptive

Jesus, always Listening and Receptive

"All things have been handed over to me by my Father;" Matthew 11:27

The interior posture of Jesus at prayer with His Father is always one of listening and receptivity. The very nature of sonship is to constantly live with hands wide open to receive all good things from the Father. He delights to hand over everything that He has and give it to the Son. While this is clear in more practical matters, it is also clear in the interior life of prayer. Jesus is the beloved Son who is constantly in prayer with the Father, listening for His voice and receiving the grace of the Holy Spirit at every moment. The Father speaks, blesses, guides, and provides for all things and at all times. In prayer, Jesus is constantly connected to His Father and open to receive the blessings of His divine life. Jesus is the perfect example of the Son who knows what the voice of the Father sounds like and is radically receptive to his promptings in His daily life. Jesus restores our ability to listen for the voice of the Father and receive his divine life.

Mary, always Listening and Receptive

Mary is the perfect daughter of the Father who constantly listened for His voice and received the gift of divine life from Him. There are countless examples in the Gospels where Mary, who in perfect receptivity received the Holy Spirit in deeply profound ways, bears witness to how God works so powerfully in an open and listening heart. The first and most prominent example is the Annunciation. The Angel Gabriel comes to her and announces that she is to be the Mother of God, the Mother of Emmanuel. As the angel reveals to her God's perfect plan of salvation, Mary's heart is open to listen to God's word, and to give her life as an instrument of God's salvation. She then receives the Holy Spirit deep within her whole person and conceives Jesus in her womb. Mary at the Annunciation is a perfect model of what prayer looks like. Mary listens and receives all that God is doing in the present moment of her life. Thus, in prayer she receives the fullness of the life of Jesus. She longs to help us listen and receive all that God is speaking and doing in our lives at this present moment.

St. Juan Diego and Us

You hear God and know His voice. It must have been so easy for St. Juan Diego to question the grace of God and the visions of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Did he doubt? We cannot be certain, however we can find in Our Lady of Guadalupe's words of consolation

and encouragement: “Know... listen... know for sure my dearest and youngest son...” These words from Our Lady remind us of the commandment of God to His people in the book of Deuteronomy: “So acknowledge today and take to heart...” (Deut 4:39). Our Lady echoes these words again, “Listen, put it in your heart” (*Nican Mopohua*, 118). Brother, let these words strengthen your faith and hope. Put it in your heart and believe: God comes to meet you and to speak to you exactly where you are. Yes, God speaks to us, to you! Just like St. Juan Diego, he meets you upon the path of life you tread each day. It is likely not in audible words, but in thoughts, inspirations, deep affections and movements of the heart. The more we turn to the Word of God in prayer and let Him speak to us, the deeper we will be rooted in our identity and mission in Christ. When you experience communion, connection, and receptivity with Jesus and Mary, this is what we call prayer. Mary and St. Juan Diego will teach you how to listen and to receive from God, and thus restore your prayer.

Prayer

O Jesus, we adore You, we love You, and we thank You for the gift of Your presence. You are the beloved Son of the Father, always listening and receiving everything from your Father in heaven. Please come and teach us how to listen to his voice. We ask You now to hear this prayer.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of God and Mother of us, draw us close to your heart. As you taught Juan Diego to pray in the simplest of ways by listening to your voice and receiving the gift of your presence, come teach us how to listen for your voice and follow the path you set out before us. Please come and fill us with Your love.

Amen.

After reading today’s reflection, [pray the Litany of Restoration of Sonship](#).