



Day 13: Trust and Surrender in Suffering

Jesus, the Son who Trusts and Surrenders everything to the Father

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Luke 23: 46

Jesus, quoting Psalm 31, prays these words at the very end of his life, right before He dies on the Cross. With great reverence, we can probably say that at this moment He was experiencing the most excruciating suffering of His life. After the scourging at the pillar, being crowned with thorns, walking the way of the Cross, and being pierced with nails, He is the Crucified Son of the Father. What does Jesus teach us about prayer in this profound moment of suffering? Most importantly, He teaches us that no matter what we are going through, communion with God in prayer is always possible. Looking at the experience of Jesus on the Cross, it seems that He has lost everything. Apart from His holy Mother and a few close disciples, Jesus' closest friends left Him. He was betrayed, stripped, beaten, spat upon, and sentenced to the horrible death of crucifixion. At the height of all this suffering, Jesus prays to His Father in Heaven - “Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit.” Jesus is the beloved Son, who despite His great suffering, believed in the presence of His Father in His darkest moments. In His prayer, He entrusts everything to His good Father and surrenders His whole life into His care. Faithful to the very end, Jesus teaches us how to cling to prayer even when we suffer.

Mary, the Mother who Trusts and Surrenders everything to the Father

Mary stands at the foot of the Cross as a faithful mother, and with great grief and sorrow, she entrusts her Son to the will of the Father. United with her Son, she also has to trust and surrender all the circumstances that surround her. For her as a mother, the experience of the Passion is so far beyond her understanding, and the grief and sorrow break her heart like a sword. But at this moment, she chooses to stay standing with Jesus at the foot of the Cross, and this very action bears witness to her interior prayer, which is one of trust and surrender. I wonder if she remembered her holy refrain of the Annunciation, so many years before where she had to trust in the face of great mystery: “Let it be with me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). At the Cross, Mary stays with Jesus in profound suffering, and she does so as the Mother of Prayer, who practices radical trust and surrender. She longs to teach us how to remain in prayer, with great trust and surrender, even when we are suffering.

St. Juan Diego and Us

You are capable of bold trust, and you will not be disappointed. Our Lady of Guadalupe does not appear to Juan Diego because he had it all together or his life was perfect. In fact, even though he was living as a faithful Catholic, living his life centered on Jesus and the Church, he saw life as in some ways hopeless, as he expressed to Our Lady, "...we really were born for that [death], we who came to wait for the labor of our death." (*Nican Mopohua*, 114) This whole encounter of prayer with Our Lady of Guadalupe did not take place in the happiest, most perfect circumstances. The gift of prayer happens in real life circumstances, even in suffering, with all the baggage that we carry. You, too, Brother, are invited to confide to Jesus and Mary your deepest sufferings: "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares about you" (1 Pet 5:7). Archbishop Martinez also calls us to deep trust in light of Mary's message on Tepeyac: "Our Lady of Guadalupe asks what every mother demands from her child, what everyone expects from the beloved: Trust! A blind and unlimited trust, like the loving trust that a little child has in his mother" (*Am I Not Your Mother?*, 53). Let us trust with strength and confidence.

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, who in Your most difficult moments of suffering, clung to prayer and entrusted and surrendered everything to Your Father. In our suffering, teach us how to pray. Teach us how to trust and surrender like You. 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. Like you did for St. Juan Diego, come and meet us in all the painful circumstances of our life. Teach us how to be sons who daily are faithful to prayer, even when life is difficult. Please come and fill us with your love.

Amen.

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