



Day 14: Making Time for Prayer

Jesus Makes Time to be with His Father

“Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”
Luke 2:49

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus is the perfect example of “keeping the first things first.” He absolutely prioritized His relationship with His heavenly Father. Practically, His whole day was centered around personal time spent with His Father in prayer. He would sneak away before sunrise or after sunset to pray the Torah and the Psalms, and to share His heart with His Father. Luke’s Gospel captures the Glorious Mystery, “The Finding of Jesus in the Temple,” as the boy Jesus stays back in the temple to be with His Father. He longs to be in His presence. This example is one of many throughout the life of Jesus, as He is an incredible witness to His disciples, teaching them by His very life how to keep prayer to the Father at the center of everything. It is clear that Jesus concretely makes time every day to be in prayer with His Father. He prioritizes intimacy and communion with His Father, thus He is able to hear His voice and be obedient to His gracious will.

Mary Pondered Things in Her Heart

“But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2:19

Mary allowed herself to be formed and taught by Jesus. In “The Finding of Jesus in the Temple,” Mary reacts in an appropriate way as a Mother who was worried about her little boy. But with the Holy Spirit guiding her, she is open to what God is trying to teach her through her Son’s example. When “she ponders in her heart” her experiences with Jesus, she is entering the intimacy of prayer and makes herself available to all that God is doing. There are clear times where the Gospel records Mary pondering things in her heart, but I do think we are safe to say that this was a daily experience for her. Mary made time in silence and stillness to be with God. By making time for prayer, she is keeping “the first things first” and teaching us how to do the same.

St. Juan Deigo and Us

You are called to make time for God. It is humbling, really, to acknowledge that the Creator of the universe, the maker of time itself, calls us to “make time” for Him. God gives us freedom, just like we witness in the story of St. Juan Diego. Due to his uncle’s sickness, Juan Diego decided to avoid his usual path in the hope of evading the Virgin. He tried to

hide from her as if “she who is looking everywhere perfectly won’t be able to see him” (*Nican Mopohua*, 104). A saint was trying to “get away from God.” How relatable this must be for us, and how consoling. Mary, being such a good and tender mother, meets him exactly where he is at, going so far as blocking his path and then asks him “My littlest son what is happening? Where are you going, where are you headed for?” (*Nican Mopohua*, 107). When we want to evade and skip out on a “scheduled” time of prayer, Mary comes to find us and reminds us of who we are. How often, when Sunday comes around each week, do we allow our hearts to be filled with good excuses, or numbed with the various ideas and desires we have for the rest of our “day off?” God longs for our time because he longs for *you*. Jesus thirsts for your heart, your time, your love, your attention. Brother, may you not be afraid to begin again today, and with the Help of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to make time for what is most important - 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 who longs to be with Your Father in prayer. Teach us how to make sacred time to be with Him in prayer every day. 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 were patient with Juan Diego as he tried to “evade” your meeting, come to us as a Mother and teach us not to be afraid to come to you in prayer. Help us to never hide from your maternal gaze, where we can grow as confident sons of the Father. Please come and fill us with your love.

Amen.

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