



## Day 18: Holy Desire

### **Jesus, a Man of Desires**

*“Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:24*

Jesus desires unity and communion with those He loves. His heart burns with desire to be near His Father, to be in proximity to Him always. He had a deep hunger to be in relationship with His Father and an insatiable desire to be given over completely and fully to Him. For example, in Matthew 4, Jesus was driven into the desert by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the enemy, and He sets the perfect example of a son whose love and obedience to His Father was His highest priority, rather than succumb to the passing pleasures of the world. In His Father’s presence He was seen, known, and loved, and this was His security in everything. For Jesus, to live in relationship with His Father was to allow an explosion of reciprocal desires to meet in a place of vulnerability and trust. Life among the Holy Trinity before and even after the Incarnation of the Son is a beautiful and perfect example of what this looks like. Jesus was a Son filled with burning desires - desires to be seen, known, and loved and desires to be fruitful, sharing this love with those around Him. The Heart of Jesus was always receiving, always hungry, always desiring, basking in the presence of the Father, which is what sons do.

### **Mary, Hearth of My Longing Heart**

*One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. Psalm 27:4*

The joy of Mary’s heart was to constantly behold her Son. To constantly look upon Him, delight in Him, and to be near Him. Mary was the first image that Jesus received after the Incarnation of someone who would love Him like His Father in Heaven. She and Joseph became the living sign of the Father’s love for Jesus. His desire to be loved was met and received by Mary. Her maternal heart was like a hearth that protected the fire and hunger of her Son’s heart. She was the mother of His desires to be seen, known, and loved. She nourished these desires in Jesus and protected the purity of His longing for love and communion with His Father. This would eventually lead to His mission and to share this love with all of humanity.

## St. Juan Diego and Us

You are made to be a man of deep and holy desires. To desire is to see and to seek, to long for, and to lunge toward what we hope to receive or accomplish. St. Juan Diego is a man of depth and desire. In Meso-American cultures, it was common to recognize the divine in the beauty of creation; to them, the song of a bird and a simple flower spoke of the truth of God. St. Juan Diego, though, also sought to find the Lord in prayer, within His own heart and his own longings. Like him, we all experience profound longings; we ache to be seen, known, and loved.

Unfortunately, our sinful nature leads us to try and fill these desires and longings in disordered and unfulfilling ways. Brother, today I invite you to feel the ache of your desires. What do you truly long for? G.K. Chesterton boldly remarks that “Every man who knocks on the door of a brothel is looking for God.” Our hearts long for God, and yet we settle for so much less than what and who will truly satisfy the infinite longings we find in ourselves. What do you seek when, like Saint Paul, you admit, “I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.” (Rom 7:15)? Do not hesitate to give your heart to Mary who wants to heal and restore your desires. Brother, alongside Juan Diego, give voice to your desires. Speak to God what is in your heart and he will purify and perfect you, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus’ first question to the disciples in the Gospel of John is a question he poses to you today: “What are you looking for?” (John 1:38)

## Prayer

O Jesus, we adore You, we love You, and we thank You for the gift of Your presence. You are a son full of holy desires for authentic intimacy and love. Deepen our desires to be truly seen, known, and loved as beloved sons. 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 protected and nourished the desires of the heart of your son, so come and mother our hearts to receive the deeper gifts the Father wants to give us as His sons.

Amen.

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