



## Day 21: Pride and Control

### **Jesus, Meek and Humble**

*"I am gentle and humble of heart."* Matthew 11:29

The pure heart is a meek heart. Jesus teaches about meekness in the Sermon on the Mount and also later on in Matthew's Gospel where he says "learn from me; for I am gentle and humble of heart" (Mt 11:29). Living in meekness, Jesus had a heart that was eager to live in His identity as a son and receive the gifts of His "inheritance" at all times. This inheritance was a constant flow of love, delight, and blessing from His Father in heaven. The meek heart of Jesus was at every moment living in relationship with God His Father and every moment leaning into the provision and care. It is as if, Jesus, at every moment was rejoicing in his Father being His Father and also rejoicing that He could just be His Son. A constant exchange of the Father delighting in the Son and the Son delighting in the Father! In the meek and pure Heart of Jesus there was no room for pride, self-reliance, control, or grasping. He basked in the gift of being Son and receiving this gift at all times. He acted with manly strength and courage from this reservoir of love of the Father.

### **Mary, Most Humble**

*"My soul magnifies the Lord."* Luke 1:46

Mary's song echoed in the Heart of Jesus. Mary lived her whole life receiving the gift of the inheritance that was given to her in her Immaculate Conception. In Nazareth, Mary and Joseph, living in the abundance of their inheritance from God, formed Jesus in this spirit. Just imagine, all three of them were constantly seeking and looking to God to give them everything. Imagine the peace and joy that reigned there! The purity of Mary's heart and her orientation to the Father's plan and goodness allowed Jesus to rejoice in being Son, and to keep receiving the gifts His Father wanted to pour out to Him. There was no pride, control, or lack of trust in Nazareth. Just songs of thanksgiving to God for His love and goodness!

### **St. Juan Diego and Us**

You can be a humble man who accomplishes the will of God. Juan Diego recognized his own powerlessness and inability to accomplish the task that Our Lady of Guadalupe placed before him. Although he initially accepts the mission given to him by Our Lady, at

the first sign of difficulty with the bishop, he actually begs Our Lady to send someone else. He says to her, “I am a man from the country, I am a porter’s rope (*mecapał*), I am truly a backframe (for carrying). I am just a tail, I am wind. I myself need to be led and carried on someone’s back.” (*Nican Mopohua*, 55) He sees himself, not only as unworthy, but as unable to stand before the bishop with her request, and he is fearful that he will let her down. Mary, as a true mother to her beloved son, shows Juan Diego his own dignity through his calling: “It is very necessary that you, personally, go and plead, that my wish, my will, become a reality, be carried out through your intercession.” (*Nican Mopohua*, 59) Juan Diego’s humility allows God to accomplish far greater things through his life than he could have believed was possible for a man of his stature. Brother, listen to and learn from St. Juan Diego, who was a humble and meek man. He teaches us as men not to be afraid of our poverty and littleness and to rejoice in our inheritance as sons. It is God’s grace that does “great things” because he has looked with favor on his lowly servants.

Mary pursues you, and, as your mother, longs to bring you back into relationship with God and to teach you the truth of who you are. Let us repent of our pride and control. Brother, let us live with meek hearts as men who flourish in living our inheritance of sons of God. You can be a free man!

### **Prayer**

O Jesus, we adore You, we love You, and we thank You for the gift of Your presence. As a Beloved Son, You are meek, humble, and free to trust your Father in heaven. Help us, as Your wayward sons, to always rejoice in the faithful providence of Your Father, rather than the need to always be in control. 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. Thank you that your eyes were always on the One from whom every good thing comes. Pursue us in our own exile, give the grace to repent, and help us to receive once again our inheritance as beloved sons as you did for St. Juan Diego

Amen.

*After reading today’s reflection, pray the Litany of Restoration of Sonship.*