



## Day 24: Freedom and Peace

### **Jesus, the Free Son**

The fruit of purity of heart is freedom and peace. In every moment of his life, Jesus was free to be Himself and to live in His identity as a son. This is what was so attractive to those who met Him 2000 years ago and even to those who have encountered him through the gospels ever since. Jesus, knowing who He was as a son, was a totally free man. He was not bound by ego, lust, envy, or anger. He did not live grasping at power or control. He was a son who lived a deep freedom to let His Father love Him and care for Him. In so many ways, this freedom is a childlike freedom, a freedom that allowed Jesus to live unburdened, playful, and at peace in His Father's presence. This peace is a peace the world can give, (cf. John 14:27) and is found only in relationship with the One who gives His children good gifts. This peace is not bought, earned, or taken. It is simply given and received. Jesus, as beloved Son, reveals to us the end goal of our sonship: a deep and lasting freedom and peace in His Father's presence.

### **Mary, Mother of Freedom and Peace**

The Holy Family's home in Nazareth was a place of profound freedom and peace. Protected from the spirit of the world, the home of Mary and Joseph was a place where their pure hearts were protected and flourished. Imagine the deep sense of freedom and peace the Holy Family enjoyed together! The presence of Mary was a constant reminder for Jesus that He could always live as a child and a son. This is where His freedom and peace were found. Mary allowed him to always be a child in her presence. He didn't need to be a preacher, teacher, or miracle worker. He didn't need to manage the world and be in charge of everything. He didn't need to grasp at love and intimacy. He could simply be her child and her son.

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

You are called to live in peace with God. Freedom and peace sound nice, but they are not our normal lived experience. Since so many men have been wounded by impurity and lust, it is hard to imagine what life would be like without it. We have become too familiar with the yoke and burden of temptation and sin in our lives and too familiar with the spirit of the world that competes for our hearts every day. Will we ever be free to be the sons that God created us to be? Brother, believe! There is hope, there is more for you! You are called to live in peace with God. Our Lady of Guadalupe comes to mother us and love us

right in this place. What she says to St. Juan Diego she says to all of us: "Truly I am your compassionate Mother..." (*Nican Mopohua* 29) This compassion means that Mary, bearing Jesus in her womb, has brought her Son to the new world, and together both have come to suffer *with* and *alongside* us. Jesus comes to save us from our sins, and Mary comes to love us in the shame and lies that burden us in our sin. Brother, let them love you. Like St. Juan Diego, may Mary draw you close, allowing you to be her son and claim the truth once again, for the truth can set you free.

### **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 lives in perfect freedom and peace in His presence. Give us a taste of your freedom and peace in our lives. 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. Help us to reclaim the truth about our sonship, our masculinity, and our sexuality. Please come and fill us with your love.

Amen.

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