



Day 27: Meekness

Jesus, Meek and Humble

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

Like we mentioned above, as we look at the heart of Jesus in the gospels, we get to experience His meekness and humility. In Matthew 11, He says: "Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart." Meekness can be confusing as it is often portrayed as being weak or soft. But nothing could be further from the truth. Fr. Simeon Merikakis reflects, "Such Christian meekness rests, not upon constraint and resignation, but upon the freedom of the person who knows he is always and everywhere loved by God... The meek have found their place in the heart of God and has no time or interest for any other activity but that of reflecting the sovereign peace of God." (Fire of Mercy, Vol. 1). In the beatitudes Jesus associates meekness with one's inheritance, with "finding one's place." Because Jesus always and everywhere lives as the Beloved Son, He is constantly enjoying His inheritance. The inheritance that Jesus speaks of is not estate planning that is given in the far-off future but tangible graces given to those who live as sons of the Father at every moment. Because Jesus lived this type of relationship with his Father, there was no need for him to be threatened by any person or situation. He knew who He was, and perhaps more importantly whose He was, and this allowed Him to live openness and trust to His Father's will. Jesus invites us also as beloved sons to enjoy the inheritance that is ours this very moment and with meek hearts, living from the truth of the Father's love and care for us.

Mary, Meek and Humble

The presence of Mary was a concrete reminder to Jesus that he was always and everywhere loved by God. It is striking to recall the tradition that when Jesus was carrying His cross to Calvary, that He met His mother along the way. Just imagine the intimate moment that mother and son were able to experience together. In moments like these, Our Lady's love is an encouragement to remain open and trusting in the Father's will. Mary's presence in His agony encouraged Jesus' heart to embrace the grace of meekness, reminding Him, even in the suffering, the truth of His inheritance as Beloved Son. Even if it was hard for Him to see, the embrace of Mary on the side of the road reminded Him of His identity. In Mary's presence, nothing was a threat, but only a gentle grace to remain "meek and humble of heart," thus being able to receive everything from the Father, and persevere in His mission.

St. Juan Diego and Us

Do not be afraid to be little. This is a bold assertion, since Gospel meekness is not a flashy virtue. In fact, if we were to ask someone about it, most people do not know what it means. In a world with so many exterior threats to living as sons of God, Gospel meekness grants us the grace to live our inheritance now and to be protected from the lies that disconnect us from the truth of who we are. While the world says that we are orphans and alone on our journey, those with meek and humble hearts always and everywhere know who they are and whose they are. When St. Juan Diego meekly acknowledges before Our Lady how little he is, she does not contradict him; rather, it is his humility that is needed for this mission, as Our Lady explained to him: "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 meekness allowed God to work through him when a prideful heart would have failed. Brother, may you decrease, that Christ may increase in you. Let Mary hold and cover you! The more meek and humble of heart you are, the more you will live the truth of your sonship, carrying out your mission with greater ease and joy.

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 is meek and humble of heart. We offer our hearts to You to be refashioned after Your own heart. 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. Your motherly heart constantly reminded St. Juan Diego who he was in the eyes of the Father, thus allowing him to be meek and humble of heart. Please come and fill us with your love.

Amen.

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