



Day 28: Righteousness

Jesus, the Righteous One

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
Matthew 5:6

When Jesus teaches that those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness" shall be blessed, He is acknowledging the innate hunger of the human heart to live in right relationship with God. The gift of righteousness is ultimately a grace of obedience, of following God's law and His will. In Latin, obedience means "to hear" or "to listen." Jesus had an interior fire in His heart and soul that always hungered and thirsted to hear and to listen to His Father's voice. His Father's voice was His very sustenance. His mind and heart were attuned to the tenor of His Father's voice that allowed Him to simply follow wherever He was led. Jesus says in the Gospel, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work." (John 4:34) The righteous heart will always be satisfied, as Jesus teaches His followers that our hunger and thirst are always fulfilled in doing the Father's will.

Mary, the One Who Listens

At the beginning of the Gospel of Luke, the angel spoke, and Mary listened. Mary's heart longed for righteousness and truth. "[L]et it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) We do not know exactly what it would have been like to grow up as a devout Jew of Jesus' day, but it is clear that the faithful Jewish people had hearts that were always hungering and thirsting for obedience to the law of God and His will. There was a hope that their obedience and fidelity would bring God's favor and eventually the long-awaited Messiah. This is the hunger and thirst that would have been burning in the heart of Mary. This fire is contagious, and once again the atmosphere in which Jesus was formed. Mary taught her Son to listen. Mary taught her Son, "to hear the word of God," and follow it. Mary protected His mind and heart and reminded Him again and again of the one voice that mattered, His Father's.

St. Juan Diego and Us

Do not be afraid of the silence that helps you to listen. God speaks, yet we are so often covered and surrounded by noise. It is likely if you walk down the streets of any major city that a large majority of people would have headphones in their ears. What are they listening to? Or perhaps, more importantly, who? What and who we listen to will influence

our hunger and thirst. They will form it. Even though all of us were made with a hunger and thirst for God, the world can slowly suffocate the deeper hunger and yearning of our hearts for God and His righteousness. When Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego, she desired his obedience, for him to “carry her breath, her word, her will” (cf. *Nican Mopohua*, 58) listen to her request from God and be blessed. Remember that Juan Diego was on his way to Mass and catechesis - “to follow the things of God that are given to us, that are taught to us by the ones who are the images of Our Lord: our priests.” (*Nican Mopohua*, 24). He had to walk 8 miles, each way, every day to attend Mass and hear the catechesis. It should be no surprise then, that his heart was prepared to hear Our Lady’s word and carry it out - his heart was hungry and thirsty for the things of God. He heard the tender voice and was obedient. We too are invited to consider the disposition of our heart. Are we capable of hearing God’s voice? Are we open to repenting of the cacophony of voices we listen to on a daily basis? With Mary, dear brother, receive a new hunger and thirst for righteousness, a new grace to hear and listen to God’s voice and to be obedient to His will.

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 constantly hungered and thirsted for righteousness, which is the holy will of Your Father. We long to be sons who hunger and thirst for righteousness. 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 did for St. Juan Diego, give us courage to hunger and thirst for God’s will in our lives. Please come and fill us with your love.

Amen.

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