



Day 40: Our Mission's Endgame: Heaven

Jesus, the Way Home to Heaven

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16

We can make the life and mission of Jesus about a lot of different things, but the whole point is heaven. The Father sent His son Jesus into the world to save all of His sons and daughters from sin and death. By His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus is savior and redeemer. His whole mission is to bring us to heaven, the heavenly home of His Father. It is also helpful to look at salvation history with this lens. Because of the fall, all the sons and daughters of God were scattered, homeless, exiles in this world. They were faced with the sentence of death, which is ultimate separation from God. This was the tragic effect of disobedience. It is in this context that the Father sent Jesus to save us and restore the path back to the Father in heaven. Jesus says: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life (John 14:6)." Jesus' whole life and mission can be summed up as 'the way' back to the Father. He longs that all of us, all the sons and daughters of His Father would live forever with Him in heaven. Thus, His life and mission is heaven.

Mary, a Mother leading us Home

I would imagine that Mary had the grace of keeping perspective. By the singular grace that she had been given by her Immaculate Conception and by the grace of living daily life with Jesus, her heart was formed well to be very attentive to the story of salvation that was unfolding around her. In Mary's Magnificat, which is her song of gratitude at the Visitation in Luke 1, she sings a striking line: "He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." (Luke 1:54-55). What is this promise? The promise that God made to Abraham and His children forever is the promise of salvation in Christ Jesus. It is the promise of a true and everlasting covenant fulfilled by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Through Him, all the sons and daughters of God have the sure hope of heaven. Mary was given the gift of faith to believe in this promise of mercy which was fulfilled in the life and mission of her son as he opened the gates of paradise for us all. The good news is that she is our Mother who comes to our aid on this side of heaven, always leading us through the ups and downs of life back to our home in heaven.

St. Juan Diego and Us

You are made for heaven. As this truth sinks in, pay attention to what is happening in your heart. At the end of our journey here, it is good to recall eternity and to ask this question: "What is the point of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego?" In this historical context and the context of grace, God through Our Lady of Guadalupe encountered the peoples of the new world, and Juan Diego became for his people the herald of the story of God's ache for us. Our Lady appears as a woman expecting a child, who is Emmanuel—God With Us. God also longs for us to live with Him now—*on earth as it is in heaven*, as we pray every day in the Lord's prayer. God is present among us in so many ways: in the Church, in the sacraments, and mysteriously in the human soul. As we hear in Mary's message, Our God is the true God, the faithful God, the God who hears the cry of His people who are lost. Look at God's abundant mercy! But let me be clear, God needs missionaries of His mercy for those who have yet to hear and heed His gospel message. St. Juan Diego paves the way for us and through the humble testimony of his life invites us to be bold and generous missionaries of mercy and faith in the Kingdom of God. We are called to remind the whole world that we are made for heaven as our true happiness and fulfillment. Brother, we must live for heaven! This is our identity, mission, and destiny.

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, the 'Way' to our heavenly homeland. Please come now and remind us of our identity and our destiny. 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 were sent by the Father with Jesus to remind the world of God's plan of salvation, come now with your presence once again and bring us healing. Please come and fill us with your love.

Amen.

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