



Day 8: A Son Forever

Jesus, Beloved Son - Forever

“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever he does, that the Son does likewise.” John 5:19

As the perfect Son of the Father, Jesus sets the perfect example for us. While this might seem obvious, there is a profound point about sonship that we often overlook: Sons do not grow out of sonship. Put another way, sons never graduate from being sons. At the deepest core of Jesus' identity, He is always Son. His constant posture is always a son who receives everything from His Father. “The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing.” (John 5:20) With the identity of “Son of the Father” at the foundation of His very life, Jesus will grow in wisdom and in years’ (Luke 2:52) and His identity will grow and flourish in many other ways. But what is important for us to realize is that all these other identities build off His profound experience of being a Son of the Father and the Son of Mary. From the Annunciation to the Crucifixion, and beyond, Jesus always remains the beloved Son, and this is the foundation of His whole life.

Mary, always Mother

How wonderful it was for Mary to see Jesus grow into full stature and to live out the fullness of His mission! In a real way, she was always His mother, and He was always her little Son. Her motherly heart was a constant source of love and encouragement for Him. Her very presence in His life allowed Jesus to remain in the posture of beloved sonship, no matter the exterior circumstances. Jesus rejoiced at the presence of His mother every step of the way. The 30 years at Nazareth, her presence during His public ministry, and her faithful love on the “way of the Cross” were constant reminders for Him of the Father’s faithfulness. With this perfect gift of her motherhood, it should deeply move us that Jesus, while hanging on the Cross, decided to give His followers one last gift – the gift of His mother. “When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son!’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother!’” (John 19:26-27) Jesus longs for his disciples to share in the constant gift of Mary’s motherhood.

St. Juan Diego and Us

You are always and will forever be a son. Brother, it is never too late for you. St. Juan Diego was 57 years old and yet Our Lady of Guadalupe called him, “my youngest and

dearest son.” (58). Let this remind you of the truth that on our spiritual journey, we are always sons of the Father and of Mary. It is never too late for God to begin, for God to perfect His work of love in you. Clearly, Our Lady of Guadalupe does not see age as an obstacle or a precondition for discipleship. She appeared to young shepherd children at Fatima, but here she appeared to a full-grown man in Juan Diego and an even older man, Juan Diego’s uncle. What is she looking for in our hearts then? Brother, Mary is looking for a humble, receptive, simple, and open heart. Children excel in these qualities. To be in the posture of a perpetual son is to constantly receive everything from the Father through Mary. It is to always “listen,” constantly “putting into our hearts” the word and will of God, living in the present moment. No matter how old or young we are, we can always begin again to become like children and receive the Kingdom of God.

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 lived constantly from the deep source of Your sonship. Jesus, give us the grace to live everyday as true sons of the Father. 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. Like you did for Juan Diego, constantly remind us that we are always sons, no matter where we find ourselves on the journey of faith. Please come and fill us with your love.

Amen.

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