

Day Ten: *Comfort and Compromise*

1. Place yourself in God's presence

2. Ask Him for the grace you seek: to be emptied of the spirit of compromise whereby we lower our standards of Christian living to that of the world's—in a word: to have the grace to never come down from the Cross.

3. Today's Meditation:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us (Heb. 12:1).

Another *weight* that can bind us to a worldly mindset is the spirit of intellectual and moral compromise. They go together. Once I compromise the truth, I will inevitably compromise the moral law.

In writing to the Romans, St. Paul criticized them for being *full of all manner of wickedness* (cf. 1:29). Why did they act so immorally? St. Paul tell us: *because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie* (1:25). In other words, the Romans gave into compromise...the worse sort of compromise...Christian compromise with the world.

Why this example of the Romans? Because the Romans were once faithful Christians, so faithful that St. Paul “thanks God” through Christ for them because their faith “is proclaimed in all the world” (1:8). Despite their initial fidelity, the Romans did not persevere in keeping the faith whole and untarnished. They compromised. Little by little they let worldliness slip back into their lives, until they came to the point of exchanging the God they once professed to know and love, for lifeless idols made of wood and stone.

This is how worldliness always enters a Christian's life: it creeps. Little-by-little we fall out of our good habits of making an examination of conscience and spiritual reading. Little-by-little we cut short our moments of prayer. Little-by-little we put off going to confession or an extra Mass during the week. Little-by-little we slack off on mortifying ourselves or going out of our way to do an act of charity. And in doing so, little-by-little we have made compromises with the world and its standard of living.

How long will we go on limping between two sides (cf. 1 Kings 18:21)? Either we belong to Christ with all our heart, mind, body and soul or we belong to the world. We cannot belong to both. Compromise is impossible, since even in our limping we belong to the world. The consecration we are preparing ourselves for has this principal aim: to set us firmly on the path of wholeheartedly serving and following Christ. For, if we belong entirely to Mary, we must belong entirely to Christ.

We have hopefully begun to cast off the worldly *weights* of concupiscence, of pride, of mediocrity, and entitlement. Now it's time to *lay aside the weight* of compromise, understood as lowering ourselves to the world's standards.

What's usually the motivating factor behind our decision to compromise our Christian standard of life? Comfort. Comfort and compromise share the same bed. The more we flirt with comfort, the

more we will court compromise. “Comfort Catholicism” leads to compromised Catholicism both in our spiritual lives and, in the Church, at large. Just read the signs of the times. Why is the Church suffering from a lack of credible witnesses? Because those called to give the witness have found their comforts and their concessions. They came down from the cross. Jesus never came down from the cross to prove anything. He proved His love for God and us by staying on the cross. The cross itself, in its very shape, is the antithesis of compromise.

This meditation and this consecration are the antidote to keep what has happened in the Church of our times from happening in our spiritual lives.

Questions to guide your meditation: Where am I holding onto a spirit of compromise? Where do I make concessions in living out my faith? Where am I still trying to “fit in” with the world? Am I attached to certain comforts? (We know we’re “attached” when we make decisions based on these comforts.)

Is there an area in my life where I am coming down from the cross? Refusing to persevere? Could it be with this very preparation for consecration? Am I tempted to give up? Am I tempted to put it off?

- Today’s Prayer -

*Jesus living in Mary,
teach me to be generous,
to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to look for any reward,
save that of knowing that I do your holy will.*