

## Week Two/Day Seven: *Humbling Myself*

### 1. Place yourself in God's presence

2. Ask Him for the grace you seek: *to acquire knowledge of yourself and the grace of true humility through Mary*

### 3. Today's Meditation:

*He who humbles himself will be exalted* (Lk 18:14).

We started this second week of our preparation for consecration to Mary by considering the virtue of humility, and we will finish it doing the same. In reconsidering *humility* we should focus not on the need for humility—hopefully we've already been convinced of that—but rather on the need for Mary as a sign of our true humility.

We need Mary. Because of our sins and weaknesses, we need Mary to help us praise, reverence, and serve Jesus Christ our Lord more perfectly. Someone who realizes this need and acts on it acts in humility. St. Louis de Montfort writes,

“In going to Jesus through Mary, we are really paying honor to our Lord, for we are showing that, because of our sins, we are unworthy to approach his infinite holiness directly on our own. We are showing that we need Mary, his holy Mother, to be our advocate and mediatrix with him who is our Mediator. We are going to Jesus as Mediator and Brother, and at the same time humbling ourselves before him who is our God and our Judge. In short, we are practicing humility, something which always gladdens the heart of God” (*Secret of Mary*, 36).

To share in Christ's glory, we must share in Mary's humility. *For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted* (Lk 18:14). She was first glorified through Christ because of her humility. It was her humility manifested as the *handmaid of the Lord* at the annunciation which, in a certain sense, merited her the grace of being the Mother of Christ, our Redeemer. Before she conceived Him in the womb, says the Church Fathers, Mary conceived Christ in her mind and heart by faith...a humble faith.

We must humble ourselves before Christ, by choosing to approach Him through the one who brought Him to us: Mary. Our devotion to Mary is for greater devotion and closeness to Christ. In choosing to be her “slaves” of love we are entrusting everything to her. We are saying, “Mother, I cannot approach Jesus with confidence because of my many sins and infidelities; but if I approach Him with you at my side...as one of your faithful servants...then He cannot think twice about denying me.”

Are we then denying Jesus' mercy? Is not the message of Jesus' Divine Mercy and trusting in Him been one of the major messages of our era? If Jesus is so merciful, why do we need to fear approaching Him without Mary?

Mary's intercession does not deny Jesus' mercy. It actually confirms it. He in His mercy has given us His Mother as our own. Mary is His dying gift to us: *Behold your mother*.

It is also true that Jesus wants us to trust in Him. The very words He asked to be put on His image of Divine Mercy were these: *Jesus, I trust in You*. So, yes, we shouldn't fear Him. We should approach

Him with utter trustfulness, but at the same time we should also approach Him in truthfulness. We are sinners. We have sinned and we are still capable of sinning. This should make us be honest with ourselves and humble ourselves.

Let me try to put it this way. Can you look directly at the sun? No. Its rays are too powerful for our eyes. Can you look directly at the moon? Yes. The moon's rays do not overpower the human eyes. This is odd. Why? Because the sun's and the moon's rays have the same source: the sun. The moon functions as a mediator. She makes the sun's rays less intense so that the world and humanity can find its rest. The same can be said about the relationship between Christ, Mary and ourselves. Mary is the moon who mediates the Son's rays of grace to us in this valley of tears.

Christ doesn't want us to fear Him, we need Him as much for eternal life as we need the sun for our temporal lives. He simply wants us to love His Mother as our Mother. She is the moon that never sets (cf. Isaiah 60:20). Always there to share her Son's graces so that we can find our rest.

*Questions to guide your meditation:*

*Have confidence in Mary.* Consider your personal history—how many occasions of grace and moments of blessing have you lost over the course of your life? How many times have sin and inconstancy robbed you of blessing (grace)? Realizing this, is it prudent to trust in yourself to follow and love Jesus more perfectly? Would you have greater confidence if you knew Mary was guiding you and sharing with you her love and obedience?

**- Today's Prayer -**

*My Mother, I now ask thee this favor—for a true conversion of heart and trust in your Son's mercy. For the love of Jesus, I entreat thee to obtain at least this grace for me from God; from thee do I hope for it with confidence.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace...*