

Week Four/Day Two: *Jesus' Hidden Life*

1. **Place yourself in God's presence.**
2. **Ask for the grace that you seek in this meditation:** *knowledge of Jesus Christ so as to love Him more deeply and serve Him with greater fidelity.*
3. **Today's Meditation:**

Jesus "went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them" (Lk 2:51)

Yesterday we meditated on the mystery of Christ's Incarnation, now we turn to his "hidden life", the first 30 years of his life on earth.

St. Louis de Montfort writes that this moment of Christ's life is one that we must look to if we too want to glorify God in the ordinariness of our day-to-day life. "Jesus gave more glory to God his Father by submitting to his Mother for thirty years than he would have given him had he converted the whole world by working the greatest miracles. How highly then do we glorify God when to please him we submit ourselves to Mary, taking Jesus as our sole model" (*True Devotion*, 17).

What St. Louis de Montfort is saying is "Good News" for our day and age: the greatness of life is not necessarily found in exterior greatness but in interior greatness. Our interior lives matter! The true story of every man and woman begins with their interior history. Human greatness begins in the soul.

St. John Paul II picked up on this when we gave a catechetical teaching back in March 2001. For a couple of years the Holy Father dedicated his Wednesday General Audiences to a catechesis on the Creed. On March 21st, 2001 he spoke about Mary's life as a pilgrimage of faith. In her pilgrimage of faith Mary was obedient, and it was this obedience of faith that the Holy Father claimed to be her greatness, echoing the words of St. Elizabeth, *Blessed is she who believed*.

But the Holy Father did not just mention Mary's obedience of faith and the hidden life greatness that surrounded it, he also spoke of Christ's hidden life saying, "Jesus also passed his hidden life in semi-darkness, during which Mary must have heard Elizabeth's beatitude echoing within her through a true and real "heaviness of heart" (*Redemptoris Mater*, n. 17)."

The semi-darkness of day-to-day life is something we can all relate to. From the worldly standpoint we may not be seeming to do "great things" as we carry out our daily routine and face the daily struggle of being positive, confident, mature, joyful, at peace, etc. Yet, if we are able to live all things as obedience to God's will, finding His will and providence everywhere, and humbling submitting ourselves to it, then, and only then will we discover the greatness of a *hidden life*.

Jesus' hidden life was great because of His obedience. Mary's hidden life was great because of her obedience of faith. Our hidden (seemingly mundane) lives can also become "great" through obedience, that is, if we learn to model our lives on Christ, by humbling "submitting ourselves" to Him through Mary, as St. Louis de Montfort exhorts us to above.

Disobedience brought sin and slavery to it into the world; obedience alone can bring us back to true freedom. As the *Catechism* teaches us, “The obedience of Christ in the daily routine of his hidden life was already inaugurating his work of restoring what the disobedience of Adam had destroyed (532).”

Let us join Him in this work of redemption! Let us take up the moment now to examine our own lives of obedience and see how we can better model our lives on Christ’s. We must make His hidden life, one “without evident greatness” our own (CCC, 531).

Further questions to guide your meditation:

Christ’s hidden life at Nazareth is a school of life (CCC, 533). Where is obedience lacking in my life, first in relation to God, but then in relation to others who have authority over me?

Am I seeking personal freedom in God or apart from Him?

In imitation of Christ, how can I turn “ordinary” moments of my life into “great” ones through obedience?

- Today’s Prayer –

O Jesus living in Mary, come and live in your servant in the Spirit of your holiness, in the fullness of your gifts, in the perfection of your ways, in the truth of your virtues, in the communion of your mysteries. Subdue within me the power of flesh and demon by you Holy Spirit, for the glory of God the Father. Amen.