

## Day 29 of 33

Imitation of Christ, by Thomas á Kempis: Book 1, Chapter 1  
Of the Imitation of Christ, and Contempt of all the Vanities of the World

He that followeth Me, walketh not in darkness (John 8:12), saith the Lord. These are the words of Christ, by which we are admonished, how we ought to imitate His life and manners, if we would truly be enlightened, and delivered from all blindness of heart. Let therefore our chiefest endeavour be, to meditate upon the life of Jesus Christ.

The doctrine of Christ exceedeth all the doctrine of holy men.; and he that hath the Spirit will find therein the hidden manna (Apocalypse. 2:17). But it falleth out that many who often hear the Gospel of Christ, feel little desire after it, because they have not the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9). But Whosoever will fully and with relish understand the words of Christ, must endeavor to conform his life wholly to the life of Christ.

2. What doth it avail thee to discourse profoundly of the Trinity, if thou be void of humility, and art thereby displeasing to the Trinity? Surely profound words do not make a man holy and just; but a virtuous life maketh him dear to God. I had rather feel contrition, than know the definition thereof. If thou didst know the whole Bible by heart, and the sayings of all the philosophers, what would all that profit thee without the love of God (1 Cor. 13:2), and without His grace?

Vanity of vanities, and all is vanity (Eccles. 1:2), except to love God, and to serve Him only. This is the highest wisdom, by contempt of the world to press forward towards heavenly kingdoms.

Recite: Litany of the Holy Ghost, Ave Maris Stella, Litany of the Holy Name, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and O Jesus Living In Mary (See Appendix)

## THE VIRGIN MARY IN THE KINGDOM

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**The hour of the triumph: Many witness Jesus' apparitions, the Apostles turn to the Virgin Mary; Jesus ascends into Heaven**

*The soul to its Holy Queen Mother:*

Admirable mother, here I am again on your maternal lap to unite myself with you on this feast of the triumph of our dear Jesus' Resurrection. How beautiful you appear today. You are all love, all sweetness and all joyfulness, as you appear arisen together with Jesus. O Holy mother, in such joyful triumph do not forget your child, but enclose the seed of his Resurrection in my soul, so that by virtue of this divine seed, my will may resurrect in its entirety in the Divine Will, and live always united with you and with my sweet Jesus.

*Lesson of the Queen of Heaven:*

Blessed child of my maternal Heart, great was my joy and triumph in the Resurrection of my Son; I felt reborn and arisen in him. All of my sorrows were transformed into joys and into seas of grace, light, love and forgiveness for souls, and they extended my maternity to all of my

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children. Jesus conferred upon me this maternal prerogative and He sealed it with my sorrows.

Now, dear child, listen closely to what your tender mother wishes to tell you. After the death of my Son I withdrew to the cenacle together with beloved John and Magdalene; but my Heart was pierced because [among the Apostles] only John was with me, and in my sorrow I said: “And the other Apostles...where are they?” And as they heard that Jesus had died, touched by special graces, they were all moved to tears and, one by one like fugitives, they gathered around me, surrounding me like a crown. With tears and sighs they asked my forgiveness for having fled and for having so cravenly abandoned their Master. I welcomed them maternally in the ark of refuge and of salvation of my Heart; I assured them of my Son’s forgiveness, and I encouraged them not to fear. I said to them that their destiny was in my hands because my Son had given them all to me as my children, and I recognized them as such.

Beloved child, as you know, I was present at the Resurrection of my Son, but I did not say a word to anyone, as I waited for Jesus to reveal himself in his gloriously and triumphantly risen humanity. The first one to see him risen was the fortunate Magdalene, then the other pious women. And all came to me telling me that they had seen Jesus risen and that the sepulcher was empty, and I listened to them all. With a spirit of assured victory I confirmed them all in the faith of the Resurrection. By evening, almost all

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of the Apostles had seen him risen, and they all felt a spirit of victory in having been called to be Jesus' Apostles.

Dear child, what a change in scene it was for the Apostles who symbolize those who initially let themselves be dominated by the human will, who run away and abandon their Master and, in fear and fright, hide. Indeed, Peter reached the point of denying his Master. Oh, if they had been dominated by the Divine Will they would never have fled their Master but, with courage and a spirit of assured victory, they would have never left his side and would have felt honoured to give their lives to defend him.<sup>45</sup>

Now, dear child, my beloved Son Jesus spent forty days risen on the earth. Very often He appeared to his Apostles and disciples to confirm them in the faith and in the certainty of his Resurrection. And when He was not with the Apostles He was with his mother in the cenacle, surrounded by souls who had come out of limbo. But at the end of the forty days, Jesus instructed the Apostles and, entrusting to them his mother as their guide and instructor, He promised us the descent of the Holy Spirit. Then, blessing us all, He departed and took flight for the vaults of heaven together with the great host of souls that had come out of limbo. All those present, and we were great in

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<sup>45</sup> Unlike Peter's bold act of cutting off the high priest servant's right ear to defend Christ from being captured, the expression "*they would have given their lives to defend him,*" implies a selfless act of martyrdom. On Day 30, Mary reveals to Luisa that the descent of Holy Spirit infused in the Apostles this martyrial love, whereby they desired to give their lives for their master.

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number, saw him ascend, and as He rose on high, a cloud of light removed him from our sight.

Now, my child, your mother followed him into heaven and was present at the great Feast of the Ascension. Moreover, since the heavenly homeland was not foreign to me, the feast of my Son's Ascension into heaven would have been incomplete without me.

Now, dearest child, I wish to offer you a word of advice. All that you have heard and admired has been nothing but the power of the Divine Will operating in me and in my Son. This is why I so lovingly desire to enclose in you the life of the Divine Will; it is God's operating life. [What happiness there would be if] everyone would receive it, but instead the majority keep it stifled and use it for their own interests. Although the Divine Will could operate prodigies of sanctity, grace and works befitting its power, souls reduced it to inactivity, whereby it is unable to display its power. So, be attentive and let the heaven of the Divine Will extend [its power] within you, so that by this means, it may accomplish [in you] whatever it desires and howsoever it chooses.

*The soul:*

My most holy mother, your beautiful lessons enrapture me, and, oh, how I wish and long for the operating life of the Divine Will to seize my soul. I too want to be inseparable from my sweet Jesus and from you,

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my mother. But to be sure of this, you must take on the commitment of keeping my will enclosed in your maternal Heart. And even if I should see that this effort costs me much, you must never give my will back to me. Only then will I be certain [that we will remain inseparable]; otherwise, my prayers will remain only words bereft of good works. Therefore I, your child, commend myself to you with the hope of obtaining everything from you.

### *Aspiration:*

Today, to honour me, make three genuflections in [honour of] My Son's act of ascending into heaven, and entreat him to grant you [the courage] to make your ascent in the Divine Will.

### *Exclamation:*

Dear mother, with your power, triumph over my soul and may I remain in the Will of God.

## **Novena to The Divine Mercy**

Fifth Day

1218 Today bring to Me the souls of heretics and schismatics, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. During My bitter Passion they tore at My Body and Heart; that is, My Church. As they return to unity with the Church, My wounds heal, and in this way they alleviate My Passion.

1219 Most Merciful Jesus, Goodness Itself, You do not refuse light to those who seek it of You. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of heretics and schismatics. Draw them by Your light into the unity of the Church, and do not let them escape from the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart; but bring it about that they, too, come to adore the generosity of Your mercy.

Even for those who have torn the garment of Your unity, A fount of mercy flows from Your Heart.

The omnipotence of Your mercy, Oh God. Can lead these souls also out of error.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of heretics and schismatics, who have squandered Your blessings and misused Your graces by obstinately persisting in their errors. Do not look upon their errors, but upon the love of Your own Son and upon His bitter Passion, which He underwent for their sake, since they, too, are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Bring it about that they also may glorify Your great mercy for endless ages. Amen.