**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**But they did not understand what he said to them**

In order to be in his Father’s house, Jesus obeys with immediate obedience and without saying anything neither to Mary and to Joseph, He goes to the temple. Mary and Joseph are on caravan and only in the evening, when the family gathered for the night, they realized that Jesus was not with them. The next day they come back to Jerusalem and the following day they find Him in the temple while he is discussing the things of his Father with the Teachers of the Law. The things of his Father are first his Law, his Word, his Commandments, his Statutes, every other thing dealing with the teaching of the Law and the worship. Here is what the Letter to the Hebrews reveals: *“Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people.” (Hb 5,1-3)*. To the reply that Jesus gives his Mother – “*Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"* – the Holy Spirit reveals the heart of Mary and of Joseph: *“But they did not understand what he said to them.”* Why does the Holy Spirit reveal this truth belonging to the heart of Mary and of Joseph to us? Because He wants to teach us that if the Virgin Mary, Most Holy and Pure Woman, Woman filled with the Holy Spirit and with grace with no measure, Woman who is mirror of virtues, Wise Woman, and Joseph, righteous man, always willing to obey every Word that the Lord turned to him through the means of his angel, do not understand Jesus, can we pretend to know Him only because someone has referred some words about Him and, furthermore, reported badly and interpreted badly?

“*Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "**Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"* *But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced (in) wisdom and age and favor before God and man*. *(Lk 2,41-52).*

The Psalmist knows the entire Word of the Lord. He prays day and night so that He may be given its complete science and perfect knowledge. He never tires of asking for help to the Lord. He alone can let us advance in the most pure truth of his Word. Here is the prayer of the Psalmist: *“How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. Be good to your servant while I live, that I may obey your word. Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me. My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times. You rebuke the arrogant, who are accursed, those who stray from your commands. Remove from me their scorn and contempt, for I keep your statutes. Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees. Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors. I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word. I gave an account of my ways and you answered me; teach me your decrees. Cause me to understand the way of your precepts, that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds. My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word. Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me and teach me your law. I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws. I hold fast to your statutes, Lord; do not let me be put to shame. I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding. He Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good. How I long for your precepts! In your righteousness preserve my life. May your unfailing love come to me, Lord, your salvation, according to your promise; then I can answer anyone who taunts me, for I trust in your word. Never take your word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws. I will always obey your law, for ever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame, for I delight in your commands because I love them. I reach out for your commands, which I love, that I may meditate on your decrees. (Psal 119, 9-48).*

Let us reflect more: if we struggle to enter the purity of the truth of the Word of the Lord and have been studying it for about four thousand years, can we think to understand an event that is fulfilled before our eyes for the first time? Only thinking about it becomes impossible. One understands the things of God after many, but many years, sometimes. One day and neither a week or a month are not enough. One understands them not because time goes on, but because we imitate the Virgin Mary, as well. Indeed, both when the shepherds came to the cave of Bethlehem – *When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.* ***And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart****. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.” (Lk 2,15-20) –* and in this event of the finding of Jesus in the temple, it is said that *“his mother kept all these things in her heart.”* Not only these two events, but every event of her Son’s life, since the moment of the conceiving starting from the words of the Angel Gabriel until the moment of the glorious ascension of Jesus in heaven, She kept everything, words and deeds, and even the silence. She kept and meditated and understood, She understood and everything was clothed with divine truth. Now one question is demanded: why was this daily meditation necessary to the Virgin Mary? First, in order not to lose not even one atom of the truth of her Son. Her truth is from the truth of her Son. The more She understood Christ, the more She understood. The more light was shed on the life of her Son and the more her mission was reflected. Why was knowing her Son and Herself perfectly necessary for Mary? Because one must give the heavenly Father an adequate, proportionate, correspondent praise and thanking. If the gift has been most high, even the praise and the thanksgiving must be most high to be adequate, proportionate, correspondent. One cannot praise and thank the Lord in an inadequate, non-proportionate, non-convenient, non-correspondent way.

Let us make an examination of conscience: what praise can we raise to the Lord our God and what thanksgiving can we convey, if today the Christian does not even know who Christ Jesus is? Our Christ is by now deprived of every truth. This means that every other truth that has its origin in Him and that one can live only through Him and with Him, has lost its divine and eternal essence. Our praise is vain and our thanksgiving is totally false. Here is the hymn of blessing and of praise that the Apostle Paul raises to God instead, who is the Father of the Lord our Jesus Christ. his praise is holy and it is true for it is entirely founded on the knowledge of the purest truth of Jesus the Lord: *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed**[7](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/__P108.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22%244L5) with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory. (Eph 1,3-14)*.

Whoever wants to know God, his Lord, his Creator, his Redeemer and Saviour, must keep every little detail of his life in the heart and daily ask the Holy Spirit every light of wisdom, science, understanding so that one may enter the fullness of truth. One shall see all the mercy that the Lord has had for us and the great grace He has given us in every event. The more action of God we shall see in our life and the more our praise and our thanksgiving shall be convenient, adequate, correspondent. Unfortunately, today the tongue of many disciples of Jesus is mute. The know nothing of the great mercy of the Lord for them and they appreciate nothing of the many graces lavished upon their life. This is because we have lost the truth mother of every truth that Jesus the Lord is. Either we give back Christ Jesus all his divine, eternal, supernatural, incarnated truth in each of his mystery, in each of his word, in each of his event and in each of his silence – Jesus has also talked to the Lord – or we are condemned to remain mute in eternity before God and people. We cannot proclaim the praise of the Lord and the world will remain without this voice of praise necessary for his salvation and redemption. What is the use, today, of a Christianism that has lost the truth of Christ Jesus? Without the truth of Christ Jesus, the Christianism is similar in all to a body with no heart. As a body with no heart is dead, so also the Christianism without the truth of Christ can celebrate his death. Mother of God and our Mother, you who nourished yourself with the truth of your Son, meditating everything of Him, come to our rescue. Grant us the grace of having each of his word in our heart, each of his action, each of his silence, and of meditating everything of Him with no interruption, sustained and taken by hand by the Holy Spirit. **03 December 2023**