

Entering Jesus' Desolation,  
"Woman, behold your son!" part 1  
4<sup>th</sup> reflection

*When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. John 19:26-27*

As Jesus suffers His desolation and extreme agony, He remains attentive to each soul who follows Him in faithfulness and love to Golgotha. Jesus not only notices His Mother, but His Sacred Heart also overflows with love and gratitude for her. As her Son and Bridegroom, He wants her to be taken care of, knowing her years of solitude are about to begin, so He entrusts her to the "disciple whom he loved," John. *"Woman, behold, your son!"* and John, *"Behold, your mother!"*

Jesus was never self-absorbed in His desolation and agony. He was attentive to every soul throughout His passion. He not only blessed His Mother and St. John, but also blessed Veronica by leaving the imprint of His Sacred Face upon the cloth which she used to console Him by wiping His face. He blessed Simon, who helped Him carry the Cross, with a profound conversion, enabling him to come to know and love Jesus. He blessed the weeping women with His words of love and pity. And He blessed Mary Magdalene abundantly, as she was the first one Jesus appeared to after His resurrection. On the other hand, because of original sin, we have the tendency to be self-absorbed in our sufferings and the desolation of our hearts. The work and purification of God's *Simple Path* is to move us out of ourselves to become integrated in Christ crucified to be transformed in His image and likeness.

- As you enter to live with Jesus, His desolation, instead of being self-absorbed, think about who has been walking the path of life with you, and ask, "How does Jesus want me to be attentive to this person as I suffer this desolation?"

Only a few followed Jesus to His crucifixion. The Gospel of John mentions Mary, Jesus's Mother; Mary, the wife of Clopas; Mary Magdalene; and John. These were Christ's first victims of love, and to this day, few deny themselves, pick up their Cross daily, and persevere in following Him to Calvary, to become one with Love crucified.

Mary becomes the Mother of all humanity, the new Eve, yet only John was chosen to take her into his home. John was the only apostle who followed Jesus to the Cross, the apostle who ran to Mary from the garden of Gethsemane, and remained at her side throughout the entire passion of Christ. He was also the disciple who had a deep intimacy of heart with Jesus during the Last Supper, expressed in the gesture of "lying close to the breast of Jesus" (John 13: 23). Jesus continues to this day to have a special place in His Sacred Heart for the few victims of love who persevere in becoming one with Him crucified. He entrusts Mary to them in a special way, as he did to John. Jesus knows that these few souls, His victim souls, need to be formed by His Mother. Therefore, the formation of Jesus's victim souls, and His saints of these end times, as Saint Louis De Montfort taught the Church, is given to Mary Most Holy.

St. Louis De Montfort wrote in *True Devotion to Mary*:

"Mary has produced, together with the Holy Ghost, the greatest thing which has been or ever will be—a God-Man; and she will consequently produce the greatest saints that there will be in the end of time." (Paragraph 35)

In this same text, he elaborates that these "Apostles of the Latter Times" will be formed by Mary to oppose the raging enemies of God, towering in holiness like the "cedars of Lebanon". That is why the *Simple Path* begins with a 30-day consecration to our Blessed Mother, and the entire Path is walked hand in hand, heart to heart, with her.

### **Living in the Cloister of Mary's Heart**

Mary's role as our formator as Jesus's victim souls and His saints of the end times is of extreme importance, especially as we enter the fire of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to be purified by the three nails of Jesus's crucifixion. On the Feast of the Assumption in 2023, when Jesus taught us in greater detail about the purification required of us through the 1st and 2nd nails of crucifixion, Mary spoke to us and brought us Abba's invitation to enter the cloister of her Immaculate Heart. This invitation was also extended to the men. Mary let us know that this privilege is given to a few by the Father, and it was being given to us because we received the knowledge of Abba's love through our participation in the sufferings of His Son. Therefore, like John, we have entered the cloister of the Immaculate Heart of our Mother to live profound intimacy with her, and through her and with her, with Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. To give our "fiat" to this great grace that was being bestowed upon us by our Father, we were required to make 5 promises. Mary said:

*I am God's Queen Mother, for I was chosen from the beginning of time to be the New Eve and bring into the world the New Adam to break the bondage of slavery brought to mankind from the disobedience of Adam and Eve. This is the love of our Father.*

*You have come to know the love and goodness of our Father through your humility to listen and obey the voice of my Son. This obedience to Him has purchased for you the knowledge of Abba's love. This knowledge is new life. The knowledge of the Father and His love, through your participation in the sufferings of my Son, has purchased for you the title of **my maiden of the cloister of my Immaculate heart**. This privilege is given to few women by the Father, but it is being given to you and the MOC following you as God's chosen one. Enter with the MOC my cloister and choose to remain as one with me, suffering my Son's interior martyrdom, which continues in His Eucharistic presence on earth.*

The secret of God's Kingdom revealed in this paragraph is crucial for us to live the third nail of purification and remain in Christ's desolation, suffering as one heart with Him. Mary says, "**You have come to know the love and goodness of our Father.**" Without this knowledge rooted in our hearts—Abba Father loves me, and He is such a good Father; a Father who never takes His gaze away from me; a Father who has saved me from death by sending to the world His only begotten Son; and believing that I am the apple of my Father's eyes—it is impossible to live consumed in Jesus' desolation with joy and overwhelming gratitude.

Mary declares that we have received, through our perseverance in participating in Jesus's suffering, the knowledge of the Father and His love. The secret of the Kingdom of God on earth—coming to know and experience Abba's love intimately, and live in His Fatherly embrace, through union in Jesus' agony of love—is at the core of our formation given to us by God through His *Simple Path*. Mary's message continues:

*This cloister is only reserved for the women and men who choose to remain in the sorrows of my Son's Sacred Heart because humanity continues to not give glory to Abba by loving Him with all their hearts, souls, and might. Jesus came to earth to reveal the goodness and love of our Father through His life, death, and resurrection. Yet humanity continues to reject this gift purchased for all through the pouring out of His precious Blood, leaving you the gift of the Holy Spirit through all the sacraments of the Church.*

*My maidens are called to remain in the sorrows of God, through His Son, as one with me, to repair such a great offense to our good God. These maidens of reparation and consolation lived in my solitude will be blessed by God with the crown of great glory reserved in heaven for the few on earth who respond to this invitation.*

*Bring this invitation to all the MOC, but before they each give their Fiat, they must promise to live silence, the prayer of remaining in God's sorrows, simplicity, poverty of spirit, and perfect obedience to me as your Queen Mother and Mother of God. Go in peace, and know that I await each of you in heaven for the glory of God. 8/15/23*

For those of us who made those promises and have persevered in living them, enclosed in Mary's cloister for the past three years, we have undergone a profound transformation through immersion in Mary's "Soledad." Maria's song, *La Soledad*, expresses in the most perfect way this extraordinary grace given only to those who desire to love Christ unto the Cross. This divine transforming grace is given to us by God as a pure gift, but only Mary can teach us how to live it. Let me share with you some of the lyrics of Maria's song that offer us, through the poetic language of the heart, the secret treasure of Divine Love found in Mary's "soledad."

**Fue el silencio de María y su soledad... mi guía**  
*It was Mary's silence and her solitude... my guide*

**para entrar por el Camino que me llevará al destino, a la santidad...**  
*to enter the Path that will lead me to destiny, to holiness...*

**Me adentro en la soledad**  
*I enter solitude.*

**Es la herencia divina de la Pasión**  
*It is the divine inheritance of the Passion*

**Es la esencia del alma que se une a Dios**  
*it is the essence of the soul that enters union with God*

**Soledad que me lastimas soledad que me iluminas**  
*Solitude that hurts me, solitude that enlightens me*

**Eres rosa eres espinas de dolor**  
*You are a rose and you are thorns of sorrow*

**que cercan mi corazón.**  
*that surround my heart.*

**Ha llamado a mi puerta la soledad**  
*Solitude has called to my door*

**y le he abierto los brazos de par en par**  
*and I have opened wide my arms*

**Ya me voy acostumbrando**  
*I have grown accustomed*

**a su aroma y sus encantos**  
*to her fragrance and her delights*

**Ya ha empezado a hacerse dulce su amargor**  
*Her bitterness has started becoming sweet*

**le encuentro ya otro sabor**  
*Already she tastes different to me.*

- How have you experienced the “soledad” lived in Mary’s cloister as roses and as thorns?
- Is this state of your inner being, “la soledad,” losing its bitterness and becoming sweet?  
How?
- What have you learned about yourself and God by living in Mary’s “soledad”?
- How has this state of being purified you and brought you to a more intimate union with God?

### **Simplicity lived with Mary**

The third promise we made to our Blessed Mother was to become simple through the power of the Holy Spirit and the fullness of the graces of Jesus's passion, death, and resurrection. This virtue, too, is best formed in us by Mary. In fact, one month after we received the invitation from our Blessed Mother to enter the cloister of her Immaculate Heart, Jesus gave us a message explaining the virtue of simplicity and again turned our gaze to Mary, telling us to learn from her simplicity. He told us that, “without silence, simplicity can never grow to bring forth the blossom of perfect love.” For me, living in Mary's solitude, learning from her in the depths of my heart and her heart, has made inner silence my way of life. Jesus also explained to us that a “soul who becomes simple lives on earth consumed in God,” and then He ended his message by letting us know that “few souls on earth acquire this virtue due to the lack of perseverance in the interior crucifixion of the

heart, mind, faculties, and emotions. Glory to God on earth for the few that reach this summit of holiness as one with Mary.”

*Simplicity is the virtue that immerses you into the oneness of God— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is simple, and you were created to become simple in God, as one with Him.*

*Learn from Mary's perfect simplicity. She is ALL for God. She lives solely for Him. She lived in good times and very difficult times in perfect love and gratitude to Abba Father. Her simplicity was lived as My Mother. She performed every duty as Mother and wife for the glory of God. She loved and served Me in the continuous awareness that I Am the Son of God, one with the Father. Therefore, her simplicity was lived through the continuous prayer of awe and gratitude. Her simplicity was also lived in her relationship with the Holy Spirit, her Spouse. She was perfectly obedient to His every stirring within her being. Her simplicity of Heart, which is being ALL for God, was possible because of her silence. Without silence, simplicity can never grow to bring forth the blossom of perfect love.*

*Throughout the Simple Path, you each have been growing in the virtue of simplicity as you have allowed the Holy Spirit to bring into the light of your consciences your many patterns of falsehood and attachments to the world, your flesh, and self. As you persevere through each stage of purification, you become simple, which means you become totally for God. You live solely to give Him glory. Self-love dies through a slow and laborious process, and the beauty of God's simplicity begins to radiate in the soul.*

*A soul that becomes simple lives on earth consumed in God, and therefore, is the light of God on earth. Few souls on earth acquire this virtue due to the lack of perseverance in the interior crucifixion of the heart, mind, faculties, and emotions. Glory to God on earth for the few that reach this summit of holiness as one with Mary.*

*Remain persevering in the silence of body, mind, soul, and heart, and you, and the few who follow My Path of holiness, will shine as God's brilliant stars during these end times. Persevere in silence!*

Living in the inner chamber of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, consumed in His desolation, is fertile ground to become simple as Mary is simple. In the previous message, Jesus mentions five specific ways in which Mary lived solely for God, simplicity. Ponder each of the five ways Mary lived simplicity in relation to your own life. Where are you seeing growth in your own life, and which points are the ones you need to focus on for further growth in this essential virtue?

- 1. *She lived in good times and very difficult times in perfect love and gratitude to Abba Father.***
  - What difficulty are you living with, or have you recently lived with? Are you able to live it in love and continuous gratitude? If not, why?
- 2. *She performed every duty as Mother and wife for the glory of God.***
  - Are you living your daily ordinary duties of life continuously for the glory of God? The *Simple Path* of God has revealed to us the hidden power in the most

tedious, ordinary of our day, performed with love united to Jesus' sacrifice of love.

**3. *She loved and served Me in the continuous awareness that I Am the Son of God, one with the Father.***

- Are you able to serve your spouse, children, family members, community members, co-workers, etc., in the awareness that you are serving Christ? Has this Biblical truth (Mt 25:40) taught by our Lord become the reality of your ordinary daily life?

**4. *continuous prayer of awe and gratitude***

- *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- The word "praise" appears 23 times in 19 messages, and the word "gratitude" appears 34 times in 28 messages. Has the prayer of praise and gratitude become your every breath, your way of life? If not, why?

**5. *She was perfectly obedient to His (Holy Spirit) every stirring within her being.***

- Have you come to know and love the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, active in your life? Has He become your Divine closest Companion in whom you seek His guidance, help, encouragement, and light through constant prayer to Him? *If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*" (Luke 11:13) Is seeking the Holy Spirit your continuous daily groan within your heart?