

Mary – Disciple of Justice

Introduction

Jesus, the Servant of God, does the Will of the Creator. So Jesus, as Paul says, is our “justice”. Jesus came into the world to do God the Creator’s Will. For this he took on a human body – to suffer and die and rise. Jesus sweat blood, doing not His will, but the Will of the Creator. As Paul says in Phillipians 2, Jesus was incarnated as a servant. Jesus reveals that God loves us to the point washing our feet, being our “servant” in a sense. This love of the Creator is the basis of justice, the Creator’s will. To be a disciple means to love God above all, to love others because God loves them, and to do it constantly.

Mary is God’s Servant, the first and foremost disciple of Jesus. Mary tells us this in the Annunciation and in the Magnificat, as Luke describes her. She persists in this attitude to Pentecost (Acts). She is given as mother to all true disciples (John 19). She models for us the hearing of the word of God, of Christ, in our daily lives, not to receive a halo or walk on water, but to be good parents, teachers, people, in our daily actions or driving, etc. She is the woman of the new creation, being gentle and kind and compassionate as God is towards all her brothers and sisters. She does the Will of the Father and Son, in the Spirit. She models justice for all disciples. This justice is how to bring about the new creation.

Hymn (*Woman for Today* by Michael Herry fms)

What did you see young Mary
as you rode the plains with wind-swept hair?
Rough bush huts and children their poverty my despair.
What did you hear gentle Mary as the crimson sunrise
birthed a new day?
Silent cries of outcasts forgotten along the way.

Refrain

*Mary your voice calls down the years
A message of hope it brings
Lead simple lives of service
Depend on God in all things.*

What did you dream, brave Mary
as you saw beyond the storms of the day?
A land of plenty shared by all with schools to light the way.
Who joined you on your journey,
as your dream took root in barren land?
All who came to hear the call,
brave hearts and helping hands.

We honour you blessed Mary
Your way of the cross shaped our history
Living faith and stirring hope for justice and dignity
Woman of courage;
Spirit free, faith tested and proved like gold;
Heroic in vision, word and deed,
your life a treasure we hold.

Psalm

*L: Hail, mother Mary, first disciple of Jesus, your life proclaims the
glory of God.*

Alleluia! You servants of Yahweh, praise,
praise the name of Yahweh!
Blessed be the name of Yahweh,
henceforth and forever!
From east to west,
praised be the name of Yahweh.

High over all nations, Yahweh!
His glory transcends the heavens!
Who is like Yahweh our God? –
enthroned so high, he needs to stoop
to see the sky and earth!

He raises the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the dunghill
to give them a place with princes,
with the princes of his people.
He enthrones the barren woman in her house
by making her the happy mother of sons.

Glory be to the Father, and to....

*All: Hail, mother Mary, first disciple of Jesus, your life proclaims the
glory of God.*

Gospel Reading (Matthew 7: 15 – 20)

By their fruits you will know them.

‘Beware of the false prophets who come to you disguised as sheep but underneath are ravenous wolves. You will be able to tell them by their fruits. Can people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, a sound tree produces good fruit but a rotten tree bad fruit. A sound tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor a rotten tree bear good fruit. Any tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown on the fire. I repeat, you will be able to tell them by their fruits.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Intercessions

L: We pray for all leaders – may they recognise their privileged position as an opportunity to protect and nurture those in their care.

A: Mary, disciple of Justice, carry our prayer to Christ your Son.

L: We pray for our judicial systems – that they preserve the rights of all individuals with equality and integrity.

A: Mary, disciple of Justice, carry our prayer to Christ your Son.

L: We pray for employers and employees – may their relationships be honest and be based on a mutual respect.

A: Mary, disciple of Justice, carry our prayer to Christ your Son.

L: We pray for our societies – that they become based on the equality and rights of all its members especially those who are most vulnerable to abuse.

A: Mary, disciple of Justice, carry our prayer to Christ your Son.

L: We pray for ourselves – that we may strive to bear good fruit to enrich the lives of those about us.

A: Mary, disciple of Justice, carry our prayer to Christ your Son.

L: So, let us ask Mary to present our petitions to her Son and our Saviour by praying:

A: Hail, Mary, full of grace.....

Final Prayer

Mary, our Mother and Mother of our Redeemer,
by your life of simple yet profound discipleship
of your Son, Jesus,
you have shown us the way
to be disciples of Justice in our age.
May we strive every day and in every way
to be witnesses by word and action
of the justice Jesus brought into the world.
May our “little” acts of everyday justice
be a means of nurturing our society and world
so that all people may be able to live the lives
they were created for.

We ask this through Christ your Son. Amen.

Acknowledgments

- “Introduction” from the University of Dayton website (www.udayton.edu/mary/marymeditations.html).
- “Hymn” from CD *Dare to Dream*. Music by Michael Herry fms, lyrics by Tricia Walsh except *We Give You Thanks, O God* by Jenny O’Brien. Published by Spectrum Publications, Victoria.
- Bible extracts taken from *The Jerusalem Bible*, Popular Edition; Darton, Longman & Todd, London; 1974.