

THE WEEKEND MEDITATIONS

Thursday Night Meditation:

KNOW YOURSELF.

Are you happy now as I speak to you? Not with a superficial feeling that does not satisfy you to the depth of your being. We need to look inside ourselves, and to allow God to touch those hidden places. Any action from God is doomed to fail unless the person is open to be touched. Anyone who does not listen with the heart receives no message. Jesus experienced this sense of failure in His own attempt to love and teach people in His own time. The secret of those who became models of human success lies in the fact that they found who they were and lived their possibilities to their fullest. Floating in the current of life has never built anything good for one self and for others.

In this meditation we need to take a sincere and serious look at our inner self, without any hiding from our daily reality. Tonight, we are invited to journey to our own depth, removing the masks of false image we put on. Make it a lived, truthful experience here and now. Perfection is not a matter of years experienced, but of the quality of life. Fooling ourselves will make us the only true losers. Let us open wide the doors of our true self: this is a condition that will enable us to reap good fruits. We are on a spiritual journey. Are we really spiritual? Let us have a good start for a fresh new step in a further progress into God's dream-come-true **for us**.

This time of reflection for you at this Weekend is an important opportunity to stop the rat race, catch your breath, and face your life as it is. (This is also good for all of us here at this Conference since the journey is still on.) Its quality depends on self-examination in the broad daylight of truth).

Asking ourselves the right questions and having the willingness to hear the answers will bring us to real self and to real personal happiness. This is the first worthwhile question: "Why have you come to this Cursillo Weekend?" (I rephrase it for us at this Conference: Why are we here as ourselves?) Not a leaf falls from a tree without God's consent. For a Christian who thinks, nothing happens without a purpose. Because a friend invited us is not an enough reason because it is each one of us that hurt inside. The true reason is that Someone has been thirsting for us and used our friend to bring us here. Anything brewing inside of our true self is of greater interest to God than the leaf of the tree or the flowers or the birds in the sky. Yes, the Lord God has brought us to this Weekend because He cares for us and wants us (you and me) to be happy with His own happiness. This is an important appointment for Him and for us. Why are WE here? We will take a moment of silence to face ourselves.

A second question overflows from the first one: "For what purpose have we come to the Cursillo?" We already heard an answer: to fill our head with ideas and our heart with fire. We need to think. We want to stop the merry-go-round of our daily life in a mad, tiring, busy, hectic existence caught up in technology, organization, and speed. We want to be quiet, to think about self, to find a sense to our life. We will, if we take the time in silence and reflection. Try it, you will like it.

The great evil and sickness of our times and our society, which is debilitating all of us, is that we do not stop to THINK. The thinkers find the way to success and peace of mind and heart. To think helps to move us out of our emotions, to find our true selves, to identify our personal identity, to assess the emptiness of desires, pleasures, and work for the sake of work, etc. Everyone has to discover what it is to be a human person in charge of one's life, responsible for

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one's own happiness. To do so, one has to break one's own chains, one's disillusionments, one's enslavements, and one's frustrations.

The main call tonight is to KNOW YOURSELF. Get yourself, that is you and I, in order, our mind, our heart, our life, our friendships, our commitments, our soul. Be yourself as the Creator made us. Get rid of what defaces our true image as given to us. The "Know thyself" saying comes from a pagan philosopher. Saint Augustine christened it and perfected it this way: "That I may know Thee, O Lord, and that I may know myself." A woman convert attributed the greatest success of her life to the fact that one day she was able to look herself squarely in the face. Please, take a good look at yourself, just as you are, good and not so good without any harsh judgments, just your plain self. Let me ask you this: "What am I really in my own eyes? A real somebody, or a fake. First, assess my own reality, second, decide to make myself the best I can and, third, remove the dead cat or cats at the bottom of our well. This third point can always be done, if we decide to do a permanent cleaning. The important move we are called to do is to discover the beautiful person we are. God never makes "junk" when He creates. Junk comes from human designs. Think a moment: Would we like to have the true story of our life filmed? Would we be able to view all our actions, our ambitions, our pretences, our conversations, on the screen without blushing? Would we want our friends to be present at the showing? Would we want our children, our mother, our wife, or sweetheart to know it? Don't worry. They will never see it. No official censors will review it. But the Lord has seen it. And we must see it, in our moments of sincerity, in order to trigger the change that is due. Let's pause to reflect on these questions. (These questions are valid for us too tonight, at this Conference. Because we have lived our Weekend, this does not mean that we have made it and that nothing can be improved).

My friends, the success of the Cursillo is up to each one of us and to our willingness to change and act it with strong determination. Cursillo can help if we want to be helped as long as we have an open mind and an open heart. Otherwise, we are dead inside even if we appear to be living and well. In order to give Cursillo the power to help us, we have to keep away from prejudice, selfishness and pride, throw overboard all the burdens of our past choking our quality of life. If we do, we will live a better life. Cursillo could be a great help to us. Let us see our life this way: rather than having been bad, we have been unhappy. Let us chew this thought.

Second Meditation:

THE PRODIGAL SON or better said: The Loving Father. (Luke 15: 11-31)

The first meditation is a big challenge and even for us tonight, it has the power to bring us to face our own reality in the glaring light. The impact can be shame and a desire to erase many sections of our personal film because we are not too proud of the sinfulness we see. A question haunts us: How can I get rid of this and start a new life with the best of myself? This Meditation leads us to find in God's mercy the total peace of heart and that new appreciation of our true goodness in God's heart. What counts here is not one's own misery but God's mercy. In the mercy of God, misery dissolves in love and the sinner regains his true worth as a human being and as a Son/daughter of God. Let us proceed with the Meditation now.

My friends, maybe the film of our life is stressing many of our weaknesses and failings. It stirs a cascade of different feelings that makes us very uneasy and wishing to have a new script where the best of us would prevail. The following reactions are possible: ashamed, crushed under the negative baggage of our real life, despair to be trapped with these wrongdoings, a strong desire to be free from our interior prison. BUT there is a SOLUTION, a solution that can reach the depth of self and heal the wounds of weaknesses and failings, bring interior peace, **and this forever**. Selfishness and self-centeredness can receive a cure if we want to. Jesus has presented this process of healing through a parable that is a message of life through a short story of a father and

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his two sons. A story that could be yours, anyone's or mine. A loving father, kind and caring of his two sons, living in the same house. The youngest son wanted to be free, unsupervised with money (his heritage before his father's death). This is an insult and a grave rejection of love. This is a dream in a lot of people even today, even for some in here.

Let's follow what happened. The young son got the money, cashed it and went off as fast as he could to a far-off country, squandered his money in licentious living and after a good while faced starvation and enslaved himself in remorse and tending pigs in a low life and in wretchedness. He lost everything even his own self-esteem. The little flame inside of him was still burning in his disastrous life. A reaction sets in: the memory of his father's love for him. Could he dare show up again after what he did? There is a war within him. In his wretchedness, he wants to cling to his Father's love: "I will quit this place and go and meet my father! I know and recognize I sinned against you," he repeats constantly on the road back home. As he was coming closer love was growing in him and also a certain fear about what will happen.

The Father lived all these years with a wound in his heart, hoping every minute that the waiting would be over and he would have his son near him again. Everyday, he waited at the window, watching the road to his house, with often a tear running down his cheek. The waiting of the heart was his main occupation besides getting whiter and older. One day, far away someone was walking closer and closer to his house. His heart was leaping with hope. He softly whispered: "It's him" and started to run with his old legs. Repentance walks, mercy runs. His son started to admit his faults against love but the father was hugging him saying: "You are back. Thank God! Let's celebrate because you are alive. Welcome home, my son! In one instant, the father's heart love was like a bonfire burning all the pain of absence, the anguish of hoping for a return, the sin against love toward him. Nothing else existed now than his love, all forgiveness, and joy of being together again.

There is a second son not particularly anxious to hear about his younger brother, "this son of yours" the disgrace of the family by his conduct with women. Hearing noise at the house on the road to the house from the fields, his suspicion was pinching his heart. One of the servants told him that his brother is back and his father called for a big celebration for his return. "Come, and join the others." "I am not interested. Father is a fool to treat him this way. He never gave me anything to celebrate with my friends. All this makes me angry." The Father hearing his stubbornness came out to implore him to join the celebration: "I love you, all I have is yours." He refused and sank deeper into his own self.

Jesus gives here an answer to all those who feel bad about their weaknesses and failings. The only true healing is to be forgiven with a love greater than one's heart wound. There is no other one to do it besides God. This loving Father still exists with his infinite treasure of forgiving love. Come back to Him. God as loving Father has been searching for us all these years. Get into His arms, hear His heart beating for us, and accept to be loved. He does not fear our sins; He fears the rejection from us of His love. Let us admit that we, too, have been looking for a love greater than all human loves. In opening our arms, let us say to the Father in a whisper: "Love me, I give you the permission, forgive me." Let us pause to be in God's arms as a shivering child who needs to be warmed by His love.

Conclusion:

Friends in Jesus Christ, we walked the talk. Our heart lived it and was touched by the discovery of our "true self" and by the experience of a loving and forgiving divine Father. What a pity it would be to deprive the candidates on our Cursillo Weekends by preventing them from having

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the same experience as we did. What a good start to take the time to be in touch with God's dream about us and offer to others this gift of a true experience with Him and self.

The meaning of the Meditations on the Weekend is a balm to the hearts of all the searchers of happiness. It gives a clear focus on what it is to be a Christian. Each meditation paves the way to the meaning of our human journey, and to the journey of each step of the Cursillo Weekend. Each one leads us into the Journey to the Father with Jesus Christ as our companion and with the leader of love who is the Holy Spirit. The Meditations at the beginning of each give the day's theme and prepare each one's heart. Why not rethink, as Cursillo leaders, the place, and impact of the Meditations of our Cursillo Weekends. With their messages, we will experience that our God is a loving God, a friend for life and eternity, to bring us to be Messengers of love for the eternal Kingdom of happiness. May the Holy Spirit permeate us all with His peace, His love, and His audacity!

De Colores!

Friday Morning Meditation

THE THREE GLANCES OF CHRIST

Introduction:

Last night, we started our Christian journey with some personal questions about our real nature of being self as we are now, and as being a Christian, followers of Jesus Christ. This morning, we move on to more depth into who we are: this is the theme of today on the Weekend and on our Fourth day at this Conference.

We start by a meditation on what is to be with our Lord Jesus, human like us and divine like God the Father, and to be open to His message. Let us take the time to be aware of Him present, as our friend and our guide. SILENCE.

Let us ask the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit in this meditation.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of us your faithful, enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, instructs the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

"God does not lose sight of us, as you and I might lose sight of one drop of water in the vastness of the ocean. Because of His infinity, numbers mean nothing to God.

If you were the sole survivor in an atomic war, God could not love you more personally than He does. At every moment, you have His complete attention, His undivided love. At this very instant, God is thinking of you, "looking at" you directly, and loving you.

He is intensely aware of your present problem. He cares tremendously about what happens to you. Out of your present burden, imposed by the ignorance or malice of others or your own foolishness, God is going to bring good to you." Fr. Trese

We discovered, last night, that none of us is spotless and faultless. Left to ourselves, we would be candidates for despair in many respects. But Jesus reached out to us through a story of a love

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greater than our sinfulness, a love with the face of a super loving and caring father for his two sons. This story was meant for us. There is forgiveness without conditions and without limits. This love is greater than our sins and always available. What a gift: the gift of starting a new life, with a new spirit. Jesus was also showing His own love and care for us. He is like His father and will never move away from His heart's feelings for us. He needs to act that our heart and mind is opened to His love. Nothing can be hidden from His eyes.

Right now, Jesus is with us this morning. He is looking at you. Looking, not watching, ...there is a big difference. The glance is the expression of a state of the soul. Through the eyes of a human being, we can penetrate to one's inner soul. The eyes are the mirror and the window of the soul. In the Gospel, we can find passages that speak of the glance of Jesus Christ, in which the soul of the Lord is really shown through. Three different men met Christ and were the object of His special glance. Each of the three reacted in a different way. Remember: Jesus is now looking at you straight in the eyes, what attitude are we to take before the glance of the Lord?

1. FIRST GLANCE: Mark 10, 17 - 22: The Rich young Man.

"... a man ran up, knelt before him and asked, "Good Master, what must I do to have eternal life?" He was of good will in approaching Jesus with sincerity. So Jesus answered that he should keep the commandments. The man replied, "I have obeyed all these commandments since my childhood." And the Gospel adds with authority: "...Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him." Jesus with his warm, lingering, and profound glance penetrates the most intimate part of that soul. He looks at the youth and is charmed by him. He saw the wealth of his goodness, his interior beauty, and his desire to be happier with a happiness that exceeds human happiness. Jesus wanted him as His special friend, give him eternal life and fulfil his heart's desire. Always looking him, Jesus adds: "'For you, one thing is lacking. Go sell what you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me.'" The youth would like to, but, his riches are so many strings that encircle his heart, he feels torn. He hates to do it and he refuses to follow Christ because it is too difficult and he is a coward. He goes off ill humoured, uneasy and frowning. In the eyes of Christ, sadness shows. His desire was just wishful thinking. He missed the opportunity to love because he was selfish and self-centered.

Jesus is inviting us too, this morning, to a better life. His look is hopeful and offering us more than human and limited happiness. Will we refuse the offer because we are too attached to material goods out of cowardice? SILENCE.

2. SECOND GLANCE: John 6, 71; 12, 4 -6: Judas.

Judas is an apostle chosen by Jesus. He is an intimate friend. He was enthusiastic about his Master. He had great expectations. He felt great under the loving look of Jesus for a while. But, in time, he let other concerns divide his soul. He accepted to manipulate the truth, to put a front, to compromise. He became a slave of money. "This perfume could have been sold for three hundred silver coins and turned over to the poor." Judas, indeed, had no concern for the poor; he was a thief and as he held the common purse, he used to help himself to the funds." The more he became attached to money and pride, the less he looked Jesus in the eyes. He avoids the glance of the Master: there is a tempest in his soul. The purity of Jesus' eyes was unbearable to the progressive darkness of his soul. This state brought Judas to betray Jesus already in his heart. He had sinned without showing it. On the outside he lived with the Master, Jesus alludes to him, speaks to him and seeks his glance." Jesus said to them, "I chose you, the Twelve, did I not? Yet one of you is a devil. Jesus spoke of Judas Iscariot ... He, one of the Twelve, was to betray him." He would like to break off ... but he is proud and does not want to be humiliated. Progressively, his soul drowns in an overwhelming despair into an abyss of despondence. He resisted the

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graces of the Lord. Jesus even tried to save him in the garden of Gethsemane, as a last opportunity: "Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came for." Betrayal of a friend is a slow deadly process. He hanged himself. Jesus has already indicated what might be his epitaph on his tomb:" It were better for that man had never been born."

Judas avoided Jesus' glance because his soul was sinking into the darkness of the soul. Do we have our betrayals and cannot bear Jesus' glance, this morning? Jesus is waiting to forgive. SILENCE.

3. THIRD GLANCE: Mark 14: 27-31; Luke 22: 54-62; John 21: 15-17: Peter.

Peter is a very genuine human being. He loved Jesus and was dedicated to his Master. But with one serious flaw, he was a man of impetuous character and trusting too much in his own efforts. In spite of Jesus' clear and open announcement, with burning enthusiasm, Peter makes promises to his Master of faithfulness unto death, having total trust on his own strength to overcome anything to follow Jesus. " Even if all lose faith, I will not. "In him there is no underground apostasy as in Judas, he is just overly self-confident. Deliberately getting into a situation without knowing how to manage the hostile environment into which he has gotten himself, he sins gravely by denying the Master, three times: "I do not know Him."

However, Peter had an important redeeming factor in his favour. He was humble enough to repent. "He had not finished saying this when a cock crowed. The Lord turned around and looked at Peter and he remembered the word that the Lord had spoken, "Before the cock crows today you will have denied me three times." The regretful glance, full of sorrow but also of forgiveness touched deeply Peter who went outside, weeping bitterly." He had learned that Jesus understands human failings and that He forgives. He discovered that as long as he continued to give himself unreservedly in love to Jesus, he would have the strength to overcome all obstacles. He became the first pope:" Peter, do you love me?" "Look after my sheep."

Peter had a loving heart but was counting too much on his own strength. Do we trust too much on self to do God's will?

Conclusion: Jesus is looking straight at us now? He is calling us to walk away from cowardice, pride and too much self-confidence, to listen to Him and follow Him. What will we do now? SILENCE.

Saturday Morning MEDITATION:

THE FIGURE OF CHRIST

Introduction:

In this second day of the Weekend, we will cover how to live fully as a Christian, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and as fully human. The most characteristic and outstanding note at this moment is the intimacy with Christ. Once Christ is well known, we know Him as a fascinating and irresistibly charming person. The Gospel is the basis on which to base an exact study of His person as the Master, His moral features, and his appealing figure. The mind cannot grasp Him fully because He is a person of the heart. He is a loving, caring, compassionate, faithful friend if we dare to open our hearts. Far from the lofty distance of divine nature, He is a close, lovable, and human being. Let us approach Him trustingly, without reservation. May the Holy Spirit help us and lead us into prayer for this meditation.

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The worthy ideal, the Christian ideal of being a son or a daughter of God, will be a reality if we are focused on the God who saves through Christ, the One who came to give us Life more abundantly (John 10: 10) and the Water which can satisfy our deeper thirst (John 4: 13-14). Can you hear Jesus asking us: " ...But you, who do you say I am?" (Matthew 16: 15) Do you have an answer in your heart? SILENCE.

The big danger we all have is to create for ourselves a Jesus who fits our image and likeness, another self, with all the things we like and discarding what we do not like. This is called an IDOL. Any idol is dead, does not give life and never will. The true Jesus is the source of life, light and salvation. A false Jesus is a dark and empty void. Let us reflect on the real Jesus Christ with the only source: the Gospel where he is presented as He really is. "In your midst there is already one whom you do not know." (John 1: 26)

The Sacred Pages should be the foundation of who Jesus Christ is to us. Two affirmations are extremely clear concerning a unique person with a human name: Jesus of Nazareth. The first affirmation is that Jesus is fully human. The second one is that Jesus is fully divine. The reality of Jesus is to hold these two affirmations as an absolute, without any separation of the two. The two are presented in the Gospel. The Church has always fought for the acceptance of these two affirmations. The truth about Jesus is there. If accepted and lived, Jesus brings us truth and frees us. " ...the truth will make you free." (John 8: 32). "... whoever lives according to the truth comes into the light..." (John 3: 21). Jesus is a person living here and now. He is actually among us. He is a man who is with all of us now, but He is also someone who can be imitated, because He is a man. He is a leader worthy of being followed. SILENCE.

1. Jesus is fully human.

There are so many signs of His humanity in the Gospel. He had a human history: we know his ancestors , He is rooted in human soil. He has a mother, Mary, an adoptive father, Joseph, cousins like John the Baptist. He was born in Bethlehem, Judea, He was a child , an adolescent . He went to the Temple for the Jewish festivities, He was in regular attendance at the synagogue, He studied the Scriptures, He was a carpenter " Who is he but the carpenter, the son of Mary..." (Mark 6: 3). He died on a Friday afternoon.

2. He had a body.

He overturned tables in the Temple (John 2:15. He walked all over Palestine. He was a good speaker (5,000 people listened to Him). He ate, drank, slept, was tired, experienced hunger and thirst. .

He was very intelligent because the Pharisees tried many times to trick Him (Matthew 22: 17). His doctrine though simple was very profound.

He had a heart and human feelings: he was loving and caring for friends like Lazarus and his sisters, "See how He loved him." (John 11: 35) His disciples, (" ... and as he had loved those who were his own in the world, he would love them with perfect love." (John 13: 1) "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13: 34) the rich young man, the sick, the sinners, the poor, those who tortured Him. Jesus is one of us, like us and with us with an attractive kindness.

3. Consequences of His humanity:

He understands the human person and his/her needs, He sanctified all the steps of a human life, ordinary and daily life giving a meaning to eternity. He has great human compassion and tenderness for the sick, the poor, the children, the women etc... He suffered misunderstandings, persecution and death. "I am gentle and humble of heart..." (Matthew 11: 29). He speaks in human words to love us.

SILENCE.

2. Jesus is fully divine.

His words, His life and His actions vouch for His divinity. " Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy.' ... Then he said to them, 'Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen.'" God is here with us. " "Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through him the world is to be saved." (John 3:16). Jesus is the Son of God and God the Father himself presented him twice: at Jesus' baptism "This is my Son, the Beloved; he is my Chosen One." (Matthew 3: 17); and at the Transfiguration: " This is my Son, the Beloved, my Chosen One. Listen to him." (Matthew 17: 5). If God the Father has spoken, who are we to question this? SILENCE.

Even Jesus himself knows who He is. " I and the Father are one" (John 10: 30). " ...know that the Father is in me and I in the Father." (John10: 38). "Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; at least believe it on the evidence of these works that I do." (John 14: 11). And Jesus said 'Truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.' " (John 8: 58). God gave His own name to Moses. Jesus uses it to identify himself. " Now, Father, give me in your presence the same Glory I had with you before the world began." (John 17: 5). "As I came from the Father and have come into the world, so I am leaving the world and going to the Father." (John 16: 28). Jesus was conscious of His own divine identity.

He was also aware of His divine power and He used it. "Everything has been entrusted to me by the Father." (Matthew 11: 27). "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore..." (Matthew 28: 18). His power was more than human. He could read in people's minds, He mastered the elements of nature, water into wine, miraculous catch of fish, the tempest on the lake died down, twice multiplying bread, he walked on the waters. He brought about the healing of many sick people, of lepers, of blind people, of paralysis, of possessed persons. Some were raised from the dead. There were many more signs than those written according to John: "There were many other signs that Jesus gave in the presence of his disciples, but they are not recorded in this book." (John 20: 30). So this is only a sample! Yes, Jesus is God! SILENCE.

Consequences we can draw of His divinity:

This means that if I am linked to Jesus, I am linked to God. If I love Jesus, I love God. If I serve Jesus, I serve God. If I trust Jesus, I trust God. If I speak to Jesus, I speak to God. If I believe Jesus, I believe in God. So, let us keep close to Jesus "As long as you remain in me and I in you, you bear much fruit but apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15: 5).

Jesus is an effective Saviour, that is He saves us even at this present moment, from all our sins, our weaknesses, our past. He has all the love of God. Why not let Him love us now. He is a guide to be trusted fully. " I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." (John 14: 6). He knows all God's secrets. With all these powers, let us keep close and listen to His wisdom.

Conclusion:

Jesus is a God-Man. He is the bridge between divinity and humanity. He is the smile of God. He speaks the words of God in human terms. He has the fullness of God's love in a human heart. He is God, touchable and visible. Let us listen to the First Letter of Saint John: "This is what has been from the beginning and what we have heard and have seen with our own eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, I mean the Word who is Life... The life made itself known, we have seen Eternal Life and we bear witness, and we are telling you of it. It was with the Father and made himself known to us. So we tell you what we have seen and heard, that you may be in fellowship with us, and us, with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. And we write this that you may have perfect joy." (I John 1: 1-4)

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Jesus is asking you, now: " What do you want me to do for you?" (Matthew 20: 32).

Sunday Morning Meditation;

THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TO THE CURSILLISTA

The greatness of Christ's love is such that in spite of all the faithlessness and sin, not only does He grant His friendship through grace, but also He places in our hands the treasure of His redeeming blood, so that he may make it bear abundant fruit in others. This meditation is to help the candidates grasp that they can count on Christ for anything and that they will never be alone in serving Him. Jesus calls for help in His mission and outlines the conditions for making it fruitful. The world who needs Christ is waiting for our insertion into the world and make a difference in it bringing the Good News of the love of God to build a new world.

Prayer:

We beseech you, O Holy Spirit, to be with us through this meditation. Open our minds with your light, reach out to our hearts to instill in them the fire of your love, strengthen our wills to be at Christ's service to others. All our thanks for your discreet presence and your leadership in shaping us to Christ's image. Amen.

These last three days lived together have a small resemblance to the long formation of the Apostles by Jesus himself. He sent the Cursillo team to mould us into His likeness and receive His message of the Good News. Our hearts were touched by His love. We have been at the School of the heart, to learn how to love and experience God's love in letting Him love us. What a good school of happiness and healing! We have been the "lucky" ones. The graduation is approaching and Jesus as our leader wants to give us a message about our return to our own world. Our family and our friends are waiting for us. Our mission in coming back home is to share what Jesus gave us and get them to be happier since we have found a good recipe to be better human beings and better follower of Christ.

Let us listen to Jesus: " You did not choose me; it was I who chose you..." (John 15: 16). These are the same parting words He addressed to His apostles at the Last Supper. We are all chosen ones, all loved ones, all His friends " I shall not call you servants any more... instead I have called you friends, since I have made known to you everything I learned from my Father." (John 15: 15). All this love is for a purpose. Why get into a deeper communion of love with Jesus? We received a pearl of great price (Matthew 13:46), we discovered our true identity as sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters to all the children of God whether they know it or not, called to be responsible for each of His lambs endowed with the gift of His tenderness. **SILENCE**

We feel like Peter at the Transfiguration: "Master, it is good that we are here." (Matthew 17: 4). He offered to build tents to stay forever in the good feeling. Yes, we would like to remain on the mountain. But, we are called to go back in the valley where many persons are searching for a meaning, crying for help, reaching out to be loved and looking for companions on the journey. We are the Chosen ones by God and by Jesus to be their messengers and friends to those in need in the valley. Jesus is adding more for our mission, because His purpose is to make us His missionaries: "You did not choose me; it was I who chose you and sent you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." (John 15: 16) In some translations it is written...."and I commissioned you to go forth and bear fruit, fruit that will last". It is a command as strong as Jesus' commandment to

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love. A tree that does not bear fruits is a dead tree. A human person that does not bear fruits of love and service is a dead person with an appearance of life. The call of Cursillo does not end with ourselves. In the valley, there are a lot of dying or dead persons. They need to rise again to a new life. Would we be life givers? This is the pleading call of Jesus to us. Do we hear with the ears of the heart, could we hear the beat of His heart for us and for our brothers and sisters in need? SILENCE

What is important here is His mission. He is sending us to do His work. What was learned here during this Cursillo weekend is not for us to guard selfishly, but should be lived wherever we happened to be. To make it a better place to live and grow healthier, humanly and spiritually speaking. Do you hear the waters of your interior spring searching for a dry land, to saturate it and bring it a record crop? Yes give your fruits, those that can last, to those who are hungry in our present world. Our greatest fruit that Christ expects of us is our Apostolic Action.

How can we be messengers of Jesus' love, what should we do to be effective? One thing is clear: floating in the current of daily life is totally useless and purposeless. Jesus is telling us: keep close to me, I am the vine, you are the branches, as long as you remain in me and I in you, you bear much fruit, but apart from me you cannot do anything. (John 15: 5) Let my love reach you, transform and make you radiate my warmth around you. Remain united with me, without my love you are nothing and will not survive. No sound and productive apostolate can be achieved without a very alive interior life, without a union and communion with Christ, that is: to be filled with Jesus, think like Jesus, love like Jesus and act like Jesus without the divine gift of grace, that is God's own LIFE. Let us go forth from the Cursillo, trusting in the definite power of inner life. It will not be human means or any prestige or our culture, but grace that will make our actions efficacious. SILENCE

Jesus had only a few followers after three years of ministry; we imagine that the Son of God ought to have been more successful. What we failed to understand is the strategy Jesus is teaching us for reaching our world: He spent his time forming the twelve as a Christianity in Action which resulted in a Christian community, knowing that His work would endure as long as they remained united and loving. "My commandment is to love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34) The night Jesus prayed that they and we would remain committed to the strategy of building the Kingdom. "May they all be one in us; as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me." (John 17:21) Keep united for the success of my mission and your mission. Jesus prayed the Father for all of us to be saints and apostles: "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world; consecrate them in the truth, your word is the Truth" (John 17:17) SILENCE

Jesus last words to us are "Do not be afraid, little flock (Lk. 12:32) much is left to be done, I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works" (John 14:12) It is His promise. His Spirit is the transforming power in us. In Him, we can do the impossible. Our God is the God of the impossible. "With God, nothing is impossible" (Lk. 1:37)

The challenge should not frighten us. Remember how the Twelve Apostles spread the Gospel message. They were unafraid. They had faith.... and they conquered the world. Our call is to bear witness to what we now know it to be true about Jesus' victory. Today, the same Christ repeats to us in the face of the enterprise that awaits us: "But have courage, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33) SILENCE.