

Meditation on the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary



The Fifth Joyful Mystery

The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple



Method of meditation

To do a good meditation we ought to use the main three faculties of our soul: memory, intelligence, and will. This is a brief explanation of how to meditate:

- 1) Memory: firstly, I try to remember some principles, great realities of our faith or events of Our Lord's life and bring them into my mind so that they may be meditated upon.
- 2) Intelligence (knowledge of God): secondly, I consider these thoughts and try to understand their meaning and the consequences which are attached to them.
- 3) Will (love of God): finally, after a while of consideration, I produce some acts of will in order to apply concretely what I have drawn from my meditation into my own life and I ask God to help me to do so.

With this support, this method can be done like this:

- 1) Memory: read slowly the **extract from the Gospel and the Imitation of Christ** (page 2).
- 2) Intelligence: read and think longer about the **first series of considerations** (page 3).
- 3) Will: read the **second series of considerations** which apply in a more practical way the message of the Gospel (page 4).

End by reading the last consideration which should lead us to make **a real resolution** to apply the examples of this mystery of the rosary in our own life (page 4).

As part of the 1st Saturdays devotions, let us do this **meditation in spirit of reparation** in order to console Our Lady against the outrages committed towards her Immaculate Heart.

1. Gospel Text

And His parents went every year to Jerusalem, at the solemn day of pasch, and when He was twelve years old, they going up to Jerusalem, according to the custom of the feast, and having fulfilled the days, when they returned, the Child Jesus remained in Jerusalem, and His parents knew it not. And thinking that He was in the company, they came a day's journey, and sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And not finding Him, they returned into Jerusalem, seeking Him.

And it came to pass, that, after three days, they found Him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, hearing them and asking them questions. And all that heard Him were astonished at His wisdom and His answers. And seeing Him, they wondered. And His mother said to Him: "Son, why hast thou done so to us? Behold thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." And He said to them: How is it that you sought me? Did you not know, that I must be about my Father's business?" And they understood not the word that He spoke unto them.

And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subjects to them (Luke 2:41-51).

2. The Imitation of Christ

Thou mayst soon drive away Jesus, and lose His grace if thou wilt turn aside after outward things. And if thou drive Him from thee and lose Him, to whom wilt thou fly? And if Jesus be not a friend to thee above all, thou wilt be indeed sad and desolate. We ought rather to choose to have the whole world against us than to offend God. For when the grace of God cometh to a man, then is he powerful for all things; and when it departeth, then is he poor and weak, and left only as it were to scourgings.

In these circumstances, he must not be dejected nor despair, but calmly remain awaiting the will of God, and bear for the glory of Jesus Christ whatever shall befall him.

Because, after winter cometh the mild springtime, after the night the day returneth, and after the storm cometh a great calm (from Book II, Chapter 8).

3. Considerations

1st series

1. What a picture of radiant grace was the Child Jesus at the age of twelve! How the Holy City and Temple gladden His young heart! As in our days, through the sacrament of Confirmation, children become soldiers of Christ, so on this occasion, Jesus was admitted to the temple court reserved to men.
2. Picture to yourself Jesus, Mary, and Joseph on their journey to Jerusalem. Imagine how they prayed and conversed, how deep and tender was their mutual love, how patient they were amid the hardships of the way! Would that I were as good and amiable in my family circle.
3. Arriving on the Mount of Olives, the Holy Family descry the Holy City and the Temple. Poor Child Jesus! Sorrowful Mother! How much will you not have to suffer in this city! Proceeding into the Holy City, they enter the temple and pray together in their Father's house.
4. Great beyond words is the sorrow of this Mother, when she loses her Child. The incident gives her a presentiment of her loss of Jesus through His death on the cross. And St. Joseph! What anguish rends his loving heart!
5. On the streets and in the squares, the holy parents seek their Divine Child in vain. I also vainly seek happiness and peace amid the dissipations of the world.
6. Among relatives and acquaintances, the parents of Jesus inquire for Him. To their increasing anguish, Jesus is nowhere to be found. Neither can I find enduring happiness among the votaries of the world.

2nd series

7. After three days' anxious search, Mary and Joseph find Jesus at last in the Temple. I hear His Mother's gentle reproach: "Son, why hast thou done so to us. Thy father and I sought thee, sorrowing." Jesus was so fond of God's temple. He tarried there three days. In the house of His heavenly Father, He has no concern for the things of earth. "Did you not know, that I must be about my Father's business." The example of piety, that Jesus thus gives me, is deeply touching.
8. Jesus was found among the doctors of the temple. They were visibly astonished at His knowledge of divine thing and at His modesty. Thus Jesus is a most beautiful pattern for youth both at church and at school.
9. Jesus having return to Nazareth, His entire life from His twelfth to His thirtieth years is described in these words: "He was subject to them." I would that this were likewise the law of my spirit growth.

Resolution

10. My resolution: I will never lose God by sin. If I have already lost Him by sin, I will seek Him by true repentance. I will, by prayer and good example, also help my fellowmen to find God.