

The Luminous Mysteries of Work

The Baptism of Our Lord

“...who are you?” He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ...I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of Lord,” as the prophet Isaiah said. - John 1: 19-20, 23

“Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” What a task poor John had. He had been one of the first to recognize Christ even while still in the womb. I must recognize that that first encounter with Christ prepared the way for John. Many times my work seems overwhelming. Like John, I seem to get pressure from all sides. He not only had to “prepare the way” he also had to deal with the scholars and lawyers who were questioning him. My work too can weigh heavily on me. During my day I must meet deadlines, deal with traffic, broken equipment, or crying babies, while attempting to remain strong a world that tries to drain every ounce of energy from me it can. All of this can amount to very little if I have the right frame of mind. I must remember that I, like John, must decrease so that He might increase. My job everyday is to prepare the way of the Lord in the hearts of my family, friends, and co-workers. If I walk a straight path those who see me may find the path is straight for them if they will only follow Christ.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.

Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who was baptized by John.

The Wedding at Cana

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Jesus said to them, "fill the jars with water." And they filled them to the brim. He said to them, "now draw some out and take it to the steward of the feast."
- John 2:5, 7-8

How often I forget that God is in charge. How often I forget that God is God, I am not, and all things from the air I breathe to the roof over my head is a gift from Him. This does not mean that I can do nothing because Jesus wants to use me if I will allow Him. It is always my choice. At the wedding at Cana Mary gives an instruction that should rule my daily life, especially at work. "Do whatever He tells you." This message was addressed to the servants at the wedding but also to me, a servant of Christ. Those servants had no power of their own but through their obedience in their job many were blessed by God. If I am diligent and obedient in my work God can work miracles through me. If I do whatever He tells me, the water of this world can be turned into the wine of the kingdom. In other words the common mundane tasks of my daily work can be transformed into a glorious example of God's love and concern for His children and those who thirst for holiness.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.

Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who transformed water into wine.

The Proclamation of the Kingdom

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee. *-John 4:1-2, 13-14*

Before proclaiming the kingdom Jesus underwent temptation in the desert. His temptation began shortly after being baptized by John. “Anyone who contemplates Christ through the various stages of his life cannot fail to perceive in him the truth about man.” The cycle of our spiritual life is seen in these three events; conversion, temptation, and proclamation. Whenever I accept Christ into my life or make a new commitment to Jesus I am almost always immediately led into temptation. Only after suffering through temptation, like Christ, can I effectively proclaim the kingdom of God. As a believer, I am subject to extreme temptations in today’s world. No matter where I find my workplace it is filled with temptations because nothing is sacred or off limits to the devil. In the office I may be tempted to lust for the person in the cubicle next to me. On the jobsite I may be tempted to take material that belongs to the company. If my workplace is in the home I may be tempted to neglect my duties or find an easy way out of the task at hand. In all of my work I am tempted to follow the devil to a high place, a place of selfishness. Only when I tell Satan that I adore God alone and will serve only Him will he depart from me. Then I can tell the world that the kingdom of God is at hand.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.

Additional clause: of thy womb, Jesus, who proclaimed the Kingdom and forgave sins.

The Transfiguration

And after six days Jesus took Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. - Matthew 17:1-3

In the transfiguration Jesus reveals Himself. He shows His glory. “Christ the new Adam, in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, fully reveals man to man himself and brings to light his most high calling.” I am to imitate Christ in all things and I too am to be transfigured. By studying the “law”, represented by Moses, and the prophets, represented by Elijah, and the life of Christ revealed in them I will be changed. The workplace desperately needs to see Christ. By following Christ to the barren desert or to the highest mountain I will be transformed in His image and likeness. Only by following Him anywhere and everywhere He leads me can I experience what Peter, James, and John experienced. I should also spend more time in Eucharistic Adoration so that when co-workers look at me they will see my face shining like the Son!

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.

Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who was transfigured on Mt. Tabor.

The Institution of the Eucharist

“Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” And he sent two of his disciples, and said to them, “Go into the city and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters say to the householder, “The Teacher says, where is my guest room... And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” - Mark 14:12-15

All too often I feel that I am getting nowhere. I feel that everything I do day-by-day amounts to nothing. My life can appear to be an endless cycle of work and sleep. However, I must remember that I have a job to do and that job, no matter how seemingly insignificant, can help further the kingdom. To the disciples who went to prepare a place for the Passover it may have seemed like just another task given by Our Lord. However, by their obedience to that task the Eucharist was given to us by Jesus. God does not ask for great things from me. He only asks me to do ordinary things with great love. If I complete my work with great love Jesus can use that task to give himself to others. If I tighten the bolt, change the diaper, enter the data, rescue those in danger, or set the table with great love Jesus can turn that work into a living sign of Himself like the Eucharist. It is with a great desire that He has desired to share my work.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.

Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who gave us Himself in the Eucharist.