

- If we wish not only to be saints but also have a life that is peaceful, full of love and grace, full of beauty and truth, we must subject our wills to Jesus. This can be seen in three simple ways:
- Accepting as his loving will all that befalls us and accept as coming from his loving hands. Even evil done to us is permitted by him to accomplish our sanctification. Accept our duties of state as his will; that is, the particular things we have to do because of our position in life.

In other areas to discern what Jesus wants of us.

- One of the simplest but most effective ways of accomplishing this is to change our ways of looking at things. We no longer want to do actions, think thoughts etc because we choose them but because Jesus wants to do them in us. For example, if we wish to pray – we say Jesus wants to pray, let us pray with Jesus. This can apply to any action not only the difficult ones but also the ones that bring us pleasure. We forget Jesus also want us to enjoy life.

The simplest and best proof of this is to simply try it. Little by little, we find our lives changing profoundly.

*Come Lord Jesus, Come to reign in our hearts and our minds. Establish your kingdom on earth. Make our wills subject to yours and thereby offering the Heavenly Father the glory that is his due.*

**Spiritual Prayer:** “I am poor and empty, to the point that I do not any longer feel Your absence. Fill me, without my even asking You for it. Bring it about that I will at least not place any obstacle to Your coming and that now and then I may have the agreeable surprise of finding You sitting by my hearth, like a friend with enough familiar affection to take the place of the host, almost like a servant who tends the fire and rekindles it, awaiting the return of the master who is journeying far from his home. You came to serve, to enkindle, to consume souls. It has been so long since I have spoken to You without effort, with the natural flow of a conversation that is never interrupted.” (Maurice Blondel Carnets Intimes)

## CHRIST THE KING



Dear Faithful,

The time of Jesus' passion when he is presented to Pilate is of great interest for it is the first time that Jesus reveals his kingdom to a gentile ruler and that it is not of this world provoking Pilate's next comment: "So you are a king?" Jesus tells Pilate very clearly: "I am a King and I have come into the world to teach the truth." Jesus was not only teaching us but trying to make himself known to Pilate – Who he is and the great good that Pilate would receive from acknowledging him. But Pilate did not wait for the answer to his next question: "What is truth?" This is the answer Jesus gave to an Italian mystic Luisa Piccarreta Vol 15:

*'I am King, and I have come into the world to teach the truth. And the truth is that it is not positions, nor kingdoms, nor dignities, nor the right of command that make man reign, that ennoble him, that raise him above all. On the contrary, these things are slaveries, miseries, which make him serve vile passions and unjust men, making him also commit many unjust acts which disenoble him, cast him into mud, and draw the hatred of his subordinates upon him. So, riches are slaveries, positions are swords, by which many are killed or wounded. True reigning is virtue, to be stripped of everything, to sacrifice oneself for all, to submit oneself to all. This is true reigning, which binds all, and makes one loved by all. Therefore, my Kingdom will have no end, while yours is near to perishing.' And, in my Will, I made these words reach the ear of all those who are in positions of authority, to let them know the great danger they are in, and to put on guard those who aspire to positions, to dignities, to command.'*

This feast is of crucial importance because it forces us to examine ourselves on two related questions:

- What is Jesus' Kingdom?
- What effect does this have in our lives?

Jesus' Kingdom is therefore one which is both internal and external. Jesus himself told us that the Kingdom is within. Again:

*"But do you know what my Kingdom is? My Kingdom is my pains, my Blood, my virtues. This is the true Kingdom which I possess, not outside of Me, but within Me. What one possesses on the outside is not a true kingdom, nor a safe dominion, because that which is not inside of man can be taken away, usurped, and he will be forced to leave it. But that which he has inside, no one will be able to take away from him - its dominion will be eternal within him. The characteristics of my Kingdom are my wounds, the thorns, the Cross. I do not act like the other kings who make their peoples live outside of them, unsafe, and eventually, even starving. Not Me - I call my peoples to dwell inside the rooms of my wounds, fortified and sheltered by my pains, their thirst quenched by my Blood, their hunger satisfied by my Flesh. This alone is true reigning; all other reigns are reigns of slavery, of dangers and of death, while in my Reign there is true life."*

This Kingdom is one of great light. It is the cross that leads to this light – the Kingdom of Uncreated Light.

But it is also external for his kingdom will be established and it is coming soon but it depends upon people being open to his rule and leaving aside their own petty "kingdoms" in order to live in his. All problems in the world come from the simple question as to which kingdom people are living in. The present world shows clearly the number of "Pilates" who simply think of power, wealth, riches.

What a glorious Kingdom we are praying for every time we pray in the Our Father for "they kingdom come." We have been praying this prayer for two thousand years and the Kingdom will come and it will change the world for it is not be the final coming of Jesus that we are praying for but the triumph of his spiritual kingdom and rule on earth when his will will be carried out as it is in heaven. As the Old Testament prophets point out: there will be an end to war, there will be peace, Christ's church will be universal and sin will be greatly reduced, great health will be restored.

So what effect will this make in our lives?

