"Let It Be Done to Me According to Your Word"

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic: Fr. Alex Balatbat December 30, 2023

For Catholics, January 1 is not only for welcoming the new year; more importantly, it is a celebration of the feast of the solemnity of our Blessed Mother, Mary. The role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in our faith is the very foundation of our redemption. Her "YES" to God was the reason Christ was born. Through that "YES," we were saved. In fact, many scholars say that "Ave" - the salutation we call her - is the opposite of "Eva," the woman who disobeyed God. Thus, "Eva" became "Ave," from the woman who disobeyed God to the woman who obeyed God. . Indeed, the Blessed Mother is the epitome of obedience.

1. OBEDIENCE

Obedience is important for all of us to learn, because doing the will of God can transform our lives. However, obedience can only happen when the heart is willing to listen. When Angel Gabriel appeared to Mother Mary during the Annunciation, he saluted Mary saying, "Hail! Full of grace, the Lord is with you." This greeting was very important because this was an affirmation that Mary was full of grace because God was with her.

2. HOW DO WE BECOME OBEDIENT LIKE MARY?

- **2.1 THINK.** When Angel Gabriel told Mary she would be the mother of Jesus, she wondered. Even Mary thought about what Angel Gabriel said because it was possible that she would not understand the situation.
- 2.2 ASK. Subsequently, she asked. In all humility, she asked God so she could understand. She did not ask to challenge or cast doubt on God, but because she did not know everything. Our life is not always about knowing all the answers. In the hard questions of life, let us allow God to answer.

2.3 REFLECT/DISCERN. The Blessed Mother reflected on what she heard. Similarly, let us open our heart to what the Lord will tell us. We will know if our decisions are the will of God, by asking the following, which are used in vocation discernment:

- a. Are you happy with your decision?
- b. Are you at peace with your decision?
- c. Is there a cross in your decision? Without a cross (sacrifice), that is not the will of God.
- d. Do you hear His voice (discernment)?
- **2.4 OBEY**. To obey the will of God is to celebrate true freedom. Obedience is born out of a beautiful dialogue with God: Thinking. Asking. Discerning. Obeying.

In the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11), we are shown how the Blessed Mother was very sensitive to what was going on in the wedding. All she said to the servers was, "Do whatever He tells you." That was when the miracle happened.

3. OBEDIENCE IN SERVING GOD

- 3.1 Most of us were recently appointed to leadership positions. Do we consider our work or service a burden? Remember that people who obey the will of God do not complain because their purpose is clear.
- 3.2 There is no age limit in serving God. Despite Soar's age, she continues to serve the Lord through the Lord's Flock Community. She does not stop because she knows that her purpose is to serve God.
- 3.3 Pope Francis became pope at age 76. No one is too young or too old to obey.
- 3.4

CONCLUSION: Obedience to God's will in our life recognizes God's power, not ours. We can only hear the will of God when we listen to His voice. Let us imitate Mother Mary by also submitting ourselves: "Let it be done to me according to Your Word."

REFLECTION

- 1. What impels you to go on and be faithful to God?
- 2. Recall and relate a situation where you experienced the steps taken by Mother Mary in obeying God's will.

SCRIBES Ministry: Transcribed by Chebelle Velasco Edited by: Jo Advincula

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