

† Praised be Jesus, Mary, and Saint Joseph, now and forever! †

Chapter 2

The Purpose of Created Things

Christ:

My child, if you directed your desires according to My Will, you would learn many a holy lesson from the events of daily life. Nothing is so small and unimportant that it does not, in some way, reflect My wisdom and goodness. When you have become as good and unselfish as you should be, you will find it easy to understand the deeper meaning of the events in your daily life. An unselfish heart sees much more than what appears on the surface.

2. I created Heaven and earth for the service of man. I have even appointed angels to help man. In fact, I Myself am continually serving and helping man. If he lives as I desire, he shall one day share with Me the perfect happiness of Heaven.

3. What are you doing in return for My numberless favors? You should serve Me every single day of your life. Yet, you fail to give Me unselfish service even for one single day. I deserve all possible obedience, all possible honor and eternal praise. To Me you owe each breath and second of life. Without My continued support, nothing could please nor help you. All assistance and relief is the work of My hand.

Think:

If I ever wrote down a list of God's gifts to me, I would have to compose a book. Everything and everybody, whatever I may mention, is a gift of God for a definite purpose. All things, not just some things, are in my life for God's good reasons. In one way or another, they are meant to help me earn the unending happiness and glory of Heaven. I must reject any person or thing that leads me away from this goal by sin. All things are to be used wisely, that is, to help me live a good and useful life. By an intelligent use and control of life's daily needs and activities, I prove my sincere desire for God's eternal love and friendship in Heaven.

Pray:

My God, the good things that attract me on earth are only tiny reflections of Your perfect attraction and goodness. Let them never turn my thoughts aside from You, the Perfect Good. I hope to turn away from anybody or anything which draws me away from You. The good things of earth will pass away all too soon, but You will remain forever. I choose You now by a sincere daily battle against sin. Grant me the glorious favor of pleasing You on earth and loving You in Heaven. Amen.

October 28th

Saints Simon and Jude

Apostles and Martyrs

(† First Century)

Simon was a simple Galilean, a *brother* of Jesus, as the ancients called one's close relatives — aunts, uncles, first cousins; he was one of the Savior's four first cousins, with James the Less, Jude and Joseph, all sons of Mary, the wife of Cleophas. The latter was the brother of Saint Joseph, according to tradition. All the sons of this family were raised at Nazareth near the Holy Family. Simon, Jude and James were called by Our Lord to be Apostles, pillars of His Church, and Joseph *the Just* was His loyal disciple.

Saint Simon the Zealot or *the Zealous*, was the name this Apostle bore among the twelve. He preached in Egypt, Mauritania (Spain), and Lybia, leaving behind him the fertile hills of Galilee, where he had been engaged in the healthful cultivation of the vineyards and olive gardens. He later rejoined his brother, Saint Jude, in Persia, where they labored and died together. At first they were respected by the king, for they had manifested power over two ferocious tigers who had terrorized the land. With the king, sixty thousand Persians became Christians, and churches rose over the ruins of the idolatrous temples.

But the ancient enemy, who never sleeps, rose up, and when the two went elsewhere the pagans commanded them to sacrifice to the sun. Both Apostles, just before that time, had seen Our Lord amid His Angels. Simon said to Jude, "One of the Angels said to me, *I will take you out of the temple and bring the building down upon their heads*. I answered him, *Let it not be so; perhaps some of them will be converted*." They prayed for mercy for the people and offered their lives to God. Saint Simon told the crowd that their gods were only demons, and ordered them to come out of the statues, which they did, revealing themselves under hideous forms. But the idolaters fell on the Apostles and massacred them, while the Saints blessed God and prayed for their murderers.

Saint Jude has left us a short but powerful epistle, written after the death of his brother James, bishop of Jerusalem, and addressed to the new Christians being tempted by false brethren and heretics.

Source: *Vie des Saints pour tous les jours de l'année*, by Abbé L. Jaud (Mame: Tours, 1950).

Prayer

To Saint Jude Thaddeus the Apostle

O glorious Saint Jude Thaddeus, by whose sublime prerogatives wherewith thou wast ennobled in thy lifetime, namely thy kinship with our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh, and thy vocation to be an Apostle; by that glory which now is thine in heaven as the reward of thine apostolic labors and thy martyrdom: obtain for us from the Giver of every good and perfect gift all the graces whereof we stand in need in order to treasure up in our

hearts the divinely inspired doctrines which thou hast transmitted to us in thy Epistle; that is to say, to build our edifice of perfection upon our most holy faith, praying by the grace of the Holy Ghost; to keep ourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of Jesus Christ unto eternal life; to strive by all means to help them that go astray; exalting thus the glory and majesty, the dominion and power of Him who is able to keep us without sin and to present us spotless with exceeding joy at the coming of our divine Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

An indulgence of 300 days.

Source: The Raccolta, revised by Pope Pius XII and published in English in 1957. Imp. 1958 by Cardinal Spellman

Closing Thought

The Name of Jesus is the shortest, the easiest and the most powerful of prayers. Everyone can say it, even in the midst of his daily work. God cannot refuse to hear it. Let us, therefore, invoke the Name of Jesus, frequently and devoutly!



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