

Teresian audacity and magnanimity



REFLECTION

Sometimes we think that magnanimity and boldness are feats reserved for exceptional people, goals that are too high for us. We console ourselves by saying that we give "something," even though we feel that we never reach the "everything" that such big words seem to demand. But when we look at the Gospel from the simplicity of the poor widow, and link it to the intuition of Teresa of Jesus, we discover that living in a big way is indeed possible... and that it does not involve doing extraordinary things.

We are not asked to perform unattainable feats or become superhuman heroines. We are simply invited to **"give Jesus everything I have"**, just as it is, small or limited... but whole. That was the choice we embraced when we followed him: to give our lives from the truth of who we are. And when we remember our initial desires, we understand that this is where magnanimity lies: in knowing that what I have, I can give, because it is mine and I give it out of love.

When love is the basis of surrender, a joy that sustains and encourages is born spontaneously. It is the joy of the Beatitudes, the joy of those who discover that in every gesture and every task they are putting as much love as possible for the Lord and for the brothers and sisters He entrusts to them. That is the greatness of the Gospel: the fullness that springs forth when the small is offered in its entirety.

Giving everything for the treasure found is also a sign of the Kingdom. I give everything to my treasure, Jesus and his Kingdom, and this will spring forth and become magnanimous, bringing joy to all those who can enjoy it. It is simple: recognize my everything and give it out of love.



TEXT OF THE WORD. Lk 21:1-4 (Mk 12:41-44)

The widow's offering

Jesus was watching and saw how the rich deposited their offerings for the Temple.

He also saw a very poor widow putting in two small coins.

And Jesus said, "Believe me, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all give to God from their surplus. She, on the other hand, so destitute, has put in everything she had to live on."



CHARISMATIC TEXT (DP CHAPTER II)

"And since I saw myself as a woman, poor and unable to do what I wanted in the service of the Lord, and all my desire was, and still is, that since he has so many enemies and so few friends, that those friends be good ones, I determined to do that little that was in my power, which is to follow the evangelical counsels as perfectly as I could and to try to get these few who are here to do the same, trusting in the great goodness of God, who never fails to help those who determine to leave everything for him. (CP 1,2)

Here is my life, here is my honor and my will; I have given you everything, I am yours, dispose of me according to your will. I see well, my Lord, how little I can do; but having come to You, having climbed this watchtower where truths can be seen, if You do not turn away from me, I will be able to do everything. (V 21,5)

"Magnanimity and fortitude must be the hallmarks of the Sisters of the Society of Saint Teresa of Jesus.

You must strive to have boundless generosity toward God, for to whom everything has been given, nothing can be denied; and health, comfort, and life are the least that can be offered to Him who, to save souls, shed every last drop of His blood for us poor sinners, while innocent, in the torment of the cross. The more generous you are with Jesus, the more generous Jesus will be with you. (DP Chapter II)

QUESTIONS FOR PRAYER

At this point in my life, at my age, with the experience I have gained and the gifts I have received and developed, **do I have in my heart the desire and willingness to give everything to Jesus and his Kingdom? What would I need to ask Jesus for in order to bring forth the enthusiasm of this desire and make me determined to do so?**

Have I ever confused "giving the little I have" with diminishing my commitment, or have I seen it as this poor widow did: "it is my all, and I give it all to you"? What resonates within me? What does it evoke?



I believe in you – Teresa Parodi

I need you, brother, to tell me: "I can."
With the same enthusiasm with which I say it
I need, brother, for us to meet
In a glance, in a song

**And I believe in you and me, in me and you
In the complicity of hope
I never stop believing in you and me
In me and in you**

I carry an urgent love in my guitar
That gives me courage with obstinacy
Undefeated hope always sustains me
So intensely that I have no choice

Because I believe in everything we owe each other
Because I believe in this, our rebellion
Of loving life, of loving strength
Of loving rage, of loving love

