

Turn to Our Mother

2 Samuel 6:11–15

Enter into the Lord's presence with joy and gratitude.

Are you beginning to see patterns of sloth or pride in your life?

You are in Jerusalem awaiting the ark. Up until this week, we have seen a David who was very deliberate and patient. But, he gets a little too excited and opts for a quicker plan than God's. This leads to a catastrophe.

Pray that the Lord draws you out of sloth to embrace the kingly mission he has given you. Pray for the grace of freedom and humility for all Exodus Men, just as they are praying for you.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter. Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

And the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months; and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household. And it was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the horn.

Reflection

The passage we read today is important for the Gospel of Luke, as we saw on the feast of the Visitation. When Luke narrates the visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, he notices it resembles David's visitation of the Ark of the Covenant. Both take place in the same region of Israel. Both feature someone leaping before the presence of the Lord (David before the Ark, John before Jesus). When David confronts the impossibility of bringing the Ark to Jerusalem on his own terms, he asks, "How can the Ark of the Lord come to me?" When Elizabeth realizes the honor of a visit from Mary, she similarly asks, "How can the Mother of the Lord come to me?" Finally, Mary stays at the house of Elizabeth for three months, just as the Ark stays at the house of Obed-edom for three months.

Luke means to tell us that Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant, the one who bears the Lord. She contains the elements of the new covenant, the Body and Blood of Christ. She is the sacred vessel whom we disregard at our own

peril.

One of the best remedies for sloth is an increase in Marian devotion. Not only is she the most powerful intercessor and the one who exemplifies faith in Christ, but she is the one through whom all graces flow. How can she help us be free of sloth? She can inspire in us her joy over her Son, Jesus Christ, thereby rekindling the taste for spiritual things. She can inspire in us her docility, whereby we obey the Lord and do his will.

If we find ourselves stuck in a pit of sloth, of aimlessness or laxness in the spiritual life, we should carry Mary into our hearts with seriousness. The daily rosary is an incredible blessing in this regard. But, if Marian devotion is new to you, a daily rosary could be overwhelming. Consider increasing your devotion to Our Lady by asking her intercession at the beginning and end of your twenty minutes of prayer each day (or even each time you get in your car). Talk with Christ and Mary about how you would honor them by living out your devotion to the Mother of God.

Now place yourself before God, and converse with him.

#### Week 4 Action Items

Plan a Midsummer's Eve Bonfire for Friday and invite men into your fraternity.

Recommit to your daily prayer.

Evaluate your technology use.