



MASTER, SERVANT, SLAVE AND FRIEND

*George Abeyewickreme*

## **PRAYER TO JESUS CRUCIFIED**

O Lord Jesus Christ son of the living God, you showed me true sincere love by sacrificing your life on Calvary, in order that I may be able to return to the Eternal Father. The immense pain of mind, heart and bodily suffering you undertook has no parallel in my life. I thank you for having shown me the way back to him who made me. You have made me understand and realize that everything in this life passes away and all that remains is the love of my God. The least I can do, to show my gratitude is to bring others to the realization that they too must return to the father, who loves all men.

Please dear Lord Help me in my humble effort, that it may be pleasing in your sight. All things are possible with you; therefore may all those who read this small booklet bring praise and glory to you O Lord. May they too change their lives, to know you, love and serve you. I do know that I am not worthy to even gaze at thy Holy Countenance, but I only seek your pardon and mercy for a sinful past and blessing and grace to grow in your love for all time.

Mary Mother of my Lord Jesus Christ, I beg of your pardon, mercy and unfathomable love of a mother to succour me in my hour of need. Please, O Mary my mother, help my effort to lead others to your divine son, so that they too may bring others to the feet of thy son Our Lord Jesus Christ, the heavenly Father Almighty and the Holy Spirit.

May O Lord the light of thy face shine upon us and remain with us and we shall be saved. Amen

# **MASTER, SERVANT, SLAVE AND FRIEND**

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## **Acknowledgement**

I thank most sincerely all of you my fellowmen and women who read this small booklet and bear witness and testimony to the word of God. God in his infinite love and mercy have granted you and me the privilege of bringing the good news to all of his creation. We no doubt are unworthy to convey this message of love because we ourselves must in the first instance live this message to the best of our ability in truth and sincerity of purpose. God grant each and every one of us his blessings to do what he wants of us.

I do thank His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Nicholas Marcus Fernando, Rev Fr J Chianese of the Jesuit Order, Rev Fr Henry Silva, Fr Bensisri Perera, Capuchin Friars Norbert D Sousa, William Andrade, the Poor Clare community in Sri Lanka and Australia, and the Sister's of Mary Immaculate who have always helped and encouraged me.

My most humble and deep gratitude to my sons and daughters who have been beside me always in difficulties, failures and success's and constantly urged me on in my feeble efforts to serve God and fellowman; I thank and praise God for my departed wonderful wife Sylvia who brought up the children in love and fear of the Lord, without whom none of my efforts would have been possible.

Thank you and May God bless you all.  
George Abeyewickreme

## FOREWORD

We are all creatures of God and as human beings we are the most privileged since He has made us in his own image and likeness and given us the gift of being his own adopted children. We depend on him for every move we make. We can however rebel against God since he has given us also the gift of free will though we sincerely feel at times that we would prefer not to have that free will and would be a servant and even a slave of God. This is the topic of Mr. George Abeyewickreme's latest volume of spiritual thoughts. In his case the Holy Spirit of God does not allow him to be free but urges him to keep on writing and spreading God's loving mysteries among his circle of friends. The author prefers to be a servant, a slave of the Holy Spirit of God but the motive is love. That makes the difference.

"Master, Servant, Slave and Friend" is the title of his book. Chapter by chapter he explores the state of man on earth as he struggles with all the different possibilities placed before him to be the master, the servant, the slave or friend. Our seeking for happiness and meaning in life drives us to experiment with all possibilities. The enemy within distracts us from our

divine origins and attracts us towards false happiness. Jesus comes to our aid as the human model to make us reach our final destiny. He the master of the universe becomes the slave of his Father and by revealing the eternal truths to us make us his friends and invites us to become his brothers and sisters through love.

The final chapter is about Mary the handmaid of the Lord who simply said “let it be done to me according to thy word” and who advised us “to do whatever he tells you to do”.

I join the author in his prayer to Jesus crucified where he reflects that everything here passes away and the only value that remains is love and therefore invites his fellow beings to return to the heavenly Father who is love in essence.

Archbishop Emeritus Nicholas Marcus Fernando.

# MASTER, SERVANT, SLAVE AND FRIEND

## Chapter one

### Love and a Free Will

Everyone born into this world comes into existence as a result of a force called **love**, and which is identified and known as **God**. Man or woman is not born out of his or her own free will. His or her will is determined by that individual only after he or she has come into existence. This force of love acts as an unwritten bond between two people. Together they unite in **love** which procreates life and sustains it with what is known as **love** and this love is **called God**. Man and woman share in the process of God's creation only if he wills it so. They are not Creators themselves but participants in a continued process of creation. This force called love, also binds two or more people together as a unit of love, though not necessarily to create lives but sustain life in and with **love**.

**Man is not his own master, even though he participates in the process of creation.** It is because the God of love wants him to participate in this process that he is in existence; even if man very often tends to forget this fact. He therefore is subject to his creator; God. Whatever demand **love** makes of him, he should be prepared to do or concede. However the reality is far

from this demand of submission to the truth, even though many would not like to accept the fact that, ***we must act and behave like servants and slaves of God our Master and Creator who is love. We are what we make of ourselves, in that we become our own masters and not servants or slaves of God.***

The term servant or slave implies a menial and low servile worker who lives for the benefit of his Master and therefore many would deny being so. A servant may be defined as a domestic aid or help who receives a gratification for the services rendered while a slave may be defined as one without freedom or rights who lives in hope and expectation of obtaining that very freedom which has been denied to him. In both these instances there is no room for pride to prevail and hence the denial of being a servant or slave. A servant may plead with the master for more time to do his bidding {LK:13;8}, while the slave dare not speak but obey out of fear of punishment.

We become masters, servants or slaves in relation to God, according to our ambitions and the way we think and live. Man's only qualification for survival in this world is that which **Love** gave him on earth. **Therefore also the question, 'can man be ambitious enough to consider himself master of this world, or humble enough to be servant or slave of the Lord?'** We must bear in mind that it is also this same **God who we call Love** that removes man from the face of the earth. Man does not come into his own neither does he leave this world of his own accord; then who is master?



Many are the questions that the mind ponders upon. A primary question we need ask ourselves is; *if we did not come into existence of our own free will, why were we brought into existence by that force called love? Then follows, if we are endowed with a free will, can we do as we want? Again we need ask ourselves whether we become our own masters or whether we are servants or slaves. If we are our own masters, can we live forever, if not where do we place ourselves after death? Remember we never came into existence of our choice. Another question that comes to mind is when God removes us from the face of the earth, where would he place us? Will the master free his slave and the servant rewarded?*

### **Purpose of Life**

To answer the first question of why we are in existence, we must delve upon the nature of our creator. God our creator is full of love since **he made us out of his own free will and love for man. He made man to his own likeness and image {GN:2} which means that man was free of sin and corruption.** He wanted man to share in his creation with and in love, and therefore he gave man a free will of his own. His expectation was for man to love each other as He {God} loves all of humanity. His love for those who do not believe in Him or even disown Him is evident by the fact that, they too enjoy the same sun and rain, moon, stars and all of creation. God's one plea from the beginning of creation, right down the ages made known by His prophets, is that man loves one another as He loves, irrespective of colour, race or religion. *We believe that his son Jesus Christ came down and preached this one message of love. He even says to love your enemies and do good to those that hate you. The reason behind this thinking*

*can be considered that as only God loves those who hate him, we must, if we want to be children of God love even those who hate us of our free will, for the love of God. **“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven....”**{MT:5;44-48}.*

### **Free Will**

It is for this reason that man was given a free will in the likeness of God. Should man have been deprived of that free will, he would not be in the likeness of God but only be left with animal instincts? Though man has been made in the image and likeness of God he cannot make himself equal to God. The maximum he could hope for is to be considered as a child of God who is entitled to inherit the kingdom of God and for that he must live as his son Jesus did. **Even Jesus Christ the Son of God, who came down in human form did not count equality with the Father, then how is it possible for sinful man?** The servant is no greater than the master.

If we are endowed with a free will, we should be able to do as we want and not as another expects. That is correct, we can do anything we set our mind to, whether it is right or wrong and that is why we have ambitions of our own. At times these ambitions lead us to move away from the purpose of our existence, God and the laws of society. But then, we do not accomplish the task of loving one another as God intended, but satisfy our ambitions. Therefore we lack the capacity to love our God, for if we love him we would use our free will to love each other and live as God expects of us. **God can do no wrong and therefore when we adhere to God’s will we too**

**can do no wrong.** The slave does only what the master orders and therefore in the eyes of the slave the master is right.

The carpenter smoothens the timber, cuts it into different shapes and sizes to make a chair. He makes a chair to sit upon, while another may use it for a different purpose other than to sit. Then again a man plants an orange tree that it may bear orange fruit. Should it not bear fruit he will cut it down? Similarly our free will should be used in the service of God and not to fulfill our desires. Very often our desires are tied up with all that our eyes see and ears hear, because we cannot physically see or hear our God as we see each other. We are wrapped up in making ourselves masters of all that we see and attracted to, that we fail to see the real master before us and in us. Many of us do not have the time to come to know our God, because of our self seeking attitude and behavioural pattern of life.

**The whole thrust of creation is that we love God for who He is and, love one another because we love our God.** So long as we live in spite, anger, hatred, lust, jealousy and all that opposes true love we cannot fulfill and accomplish our purpose of life as God intended. Moving further, if we do not care and are not aware of God's presence in our life we would be unable to accomplish His desires. **We are doing exactly what we desire. We are establishing our will conceived by our selfish desires and not out of love for God or fellow man.** Then again should that free will be removed from us, we would not be in the likeness of God. Therefore it all strains down to the fact that we must and should live only in the likeness of God i.e. to love one another, even those who hate us, for His

love is for even those who hate Him and therefore we must live with and in love for those who hate us. All this if we love our God.

### **Final Analysis**

**The crux of the matter is do we fear God and truly love him?**

This is what Jesus the son of God who came down in human form, showed, taught and lived by example. His free will was to abide by the Father's will. He was the suffering servant described by the Prophet Isaiah and still more it would not be incorrect to say that he lived as a slave to his father's every word because he loved the Father as the Father loves the world. **It is written that he was scourged with a whip as slaves are, and he was also crowned with thorns; all this while being engaged in the service of his Father and abiding by that will.** Is it possible that if Jesus the son of God lived in the slavery of his Father's word, that we humans can consider ourselves as his superior? This means that we too must consider ourselves not as servants but suffer as slaves. In today's context most people would prefer to be a servant rather than a slave because a slave lives in abject poverty and is at the mercy of master and servant, while a servant receives a reward for services rendered. Therefore we must be prepared to suffer for the love of our God.

## Slave to Sin or the Word

### Chapter Two

#### **Humility of Love and Adverse effect of Knowledge**

The first Adam and Eve created by God were free of sin because they were created unto the image and likeness of God who is free of all evil. They by their own choice and action acquired sin by all that they saw and heard. They used the power of their free will to acquire a knowledge which is equal or superior to that of God and, not to obey the God of good. They disobeyed his command which made them sinful in the sight of God. Today every man and woman born into this world has an inclination to offend God but at the same time is endowed with that same gift of a free will to make his or her own choice of words and actions. {We who live in this world and derive pleasure living in it, know and realize how very difficult it is to obey God given commandments.}

The best example of such a choice is the virgin called Mary, the mother of Jesus, when she said, *“Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word”{LK:1;38}.* This teenage virgin girl is called upon by the Almighty to bear His son. Initially she is astounded at the prospect for the simple reason that she is not married; when she is told that the Holy Spirit will overshadow her, she submits herself to the will of

God, even if she has to suffer shame bearing a child without marriage and perhaps the consequence of being driven away from the village. **She expresses her love for God in humble words as a slave would.** Only a slave would express her feelings in words such as “**Do with me what you will.**” Mary was happy to be of service to God not as an equal but as a slave, hence her slavish attitude to the word of God. The humility that is embodied in pure love is now manifested in Mary.

**The desire to do good or evil is in every human and when we do evil we offend God and that is called sin.** When we act contrary to God’s purpose of creation, which is to love one another as He loves, we commit sin because we are made out of love and He is the author of love. **When Adam and Eve were created they were told not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil** ;{ GN: 2; 16-17} that was the very thing they did and that sin is called original sin. Knowledge is good so long as it leads you to God but it becomes evil when it takes you away from Him. This is what Satan did to Eve and she in turn caused Adam to sin. **Adam and Eve could not accept God’s love for them and live with that love in faith, trust and humility as a slave before God, but wanted to be like God by eating of the tree of knowledge.** Therefore when Adam and Eve offended God they tainted themselves with sin and **that sin is known as Original sin.**

**Therefore also when we are born we are stained with that original sin because we are descendents of Adam and Eve and a finger of guilt is pointed at us.** It is similar to the children of a known criminal being identified with that criminal even though they never committed the crime. The

children are identified with the one who perpetrated the crime. We continue to have love because that love was not removed by God but is removed by ourselves. Now Jesus refers to the sin we continue to commit oblivious to the fact of sin committed by the first parents. We can prove our worthiness only by realizing original sin and keeping away from sin totally. Therefore also Jesus, whom we Christians believe to be the Son of God says, *“Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the son makes you free, you will be indeed.”* {JN: 8; 34-36}. To understand these words of Jesus we must first know and understand who is a slave?

### **Dominated by Whom**

Very many do not like being called slaves, for the simple reason that a slave can be described as one who has no freedom or personal rights and is dominated by another or indulging in selfish habits. Now Jesus refers to the individual who is dominated by sin and has fallen into sin as a habit; a person who has no control over his thoughts, words and actions, is guided and dominated more by what he sees and hears rather than by the good in him. The individual continues to wade in sin and is dominated by his own passions and desires which keep him glued to the things of this world, without thought of others and their feelings. **In modern day terms it is a package that is signed sealed and delivered.**

In fact a man who is in sin is one who has been virtually bought over by the evil one, though not with money, but with deceitful promises of wealth, prestige, power and glory in this

world. Man will continue to be caught up with these desires so long as he remains dead to the word of God and alive to the things of this earth. **The promises are deceitful because nothing in this world belongs to Satan. His promise to Eve that she would be like God was a total fabrication of the mind. She never realized her dream because Satan's promise was false. His promises are achieved through the lust, greed and evil in man.** It is as though in the old slave trade a human is bought for money in the open auction of humans, as one would buy a commodity in the open market. Those that were bought came to be known as slaves even though they had a free will of their own just like their master. The difference was that the master was rich and attached to the things of this world while the slave lived in poverty and was attracted to the rich life of the master.

In this instance the man is enticed by the pleasures of this world which pass away with time and, the evil desires thus created within, enable him to forego his love for God and thus remains a slave to sin; he foregoes his life of love, humility and poverty in the expectation of a better life in this world. The slave can only be set free by the master who bought him if he so desires. His master was the one who had purchased him at the auction to be his slave and therefore it is very unlikely that the master would set free the slave. Therefore also Jesus considers Satan as the master of the sinner who remains a slave to sin and death. **Satan does not promise life after death to his slave of sin because death of mortal man is his target. His promises are confined to all that the eyes see and the ears hear.** Satan has no control over eternal life that belongs to God. Therefore the sinner can be set free only by Jesus



Christ the Son of God who triumphed over Satan. He destroyed death by rising from the dead and triumphed by ascending to the Father. He now lives forever in the minds and hearts of all who believe and follow him.

The man dominated by Satan must turn to Jesus in order that He may help him recover his freedom. **It can be said that sin is a package; it must be soaked and washed in the blood of Jesus Christ to enable Him to free man from death and ruination. To those who follow His command of unselfish love, Jesus has promised eternal life after death which He confirms by His own Resurrection to life and Ascension into Heaven.** In order that Jesus might free him, the slave must first give ear to the words of Jesus and secondly follow Him and be a slave not to Satan's way of life but to every word of Jesus the Master.

The slave can hope and be assured of his freedom only when he has washed himself in the blood of Christ and pleased the Master by accomplishing the task of loving and serving one another as commanded by Him. Therefore, for that he must follow his master even to the ends of the earth and beyond to freedom. It is only then that the slave can expect freedom and the servant eternal reward in the world beyond this life. **It all depends on whom we consider as our Master, Jesus the Son of God who has shown us the way to eternal happiness or Satan who shows the way to death and destruction?** Jesus says, *“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me the Father will honor”* {JN:12;26}

Jesus uses the phrase “*whoever serves me*”, which could mean servant or slave. Both serve him in a different capacity. The servant with questions asked and satisfactory answers received while the slave serves with no questions asked. **When man stoops to sin he does not query Satan but follows his desires and thus serves Satan.** Unfortunately we would query Jesus and blindly follow Satan and sin. Very often we act without giving much thought to our desires and thus succumb to sin. We continue in that same vein until such time as we are devastated and finally turn to the one who can remedy the situation. **Little do we realize and understand that time is not ours, but his who made us and, therefore we must be free of sin when he decides to call us to inheritance or punishment.** Therefore also it is to our advantage to consider ourselves as slaves of his Son Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ and follow his every word without doubt in our mind and heart.



The Scourging of Jesus

## **Come To Know Jesus the Master**

### Chapter Three

#### **Introducing Jesus to the World**

In the first instance we must know and understand who Jesus is and why he did come to suffer as all humans do and also what guarantee is there for those who follow him. The Evangelist John speaks of how John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the world. He says that when the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him he said ***“Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said.....And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God”*** {JN: 1; 29-34}

It means that John the Baptist had spoken of Jesus before he saw him on that particular day. He had spoken of Jesus being in existence even before he was; which means only one thing and that is, Jesus is the Son of God. Now he identifies and tells his own disciples that here is Jesus the Sacrifice who will be offered for the redemption of the World. At that time an unblemished lamb was offered to God as a sacrifice for the atonement of sins and therefore John the Baptist being inspired by the spirit identifies Jesus as the New Sacrificial Lamb to be offered for the redemption of mankind.

There is no reason to doubt the words of John the Baptist who identifies the Messiah, because he too was working and

preaching against all the vanities of the world. He says, “***I myself did not know him; but....I saw the spirit descending from heaven like a dove and it remained on him... is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit....***” {JN: 1; 31-34}. He was exhorting the people to straighten out their lives as the Prophet Isaiah had foretold. Now he, John the Baptist, was being not only a witness to the truth that Jesus was the light of the world as foretold by the prophets but also urging the people to turn away from sin as the Redeemer has been born into the world and was at hand.

Once Jesus was identified by John the Baptist, two of his own disciples followed Jesus in order to ascertain where he lived. These two having followed Jesus to where he lived, spent the rest of the day with him only to return home by evening. They were apparently thrilled at having met and spoken with Jesus the Lamb of God, that they tell others about him. These two disciples of the Baptist were convinced that here was the one who would redeem them from the heavy burden that beset them and, that is why they spoke about him to their brothers and friends.

Then comes a question; where did Jesus the Son of God live while on this earth? The one who created the whole earth and human race did not have a palace to live in; neither did He have a stone to lay His head upon for elsewhere, The Evangelist Matthew quotes Jesus as having said, “***Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.*** {MT: 8; 18-22}”.Despite this fact of not having a proper abode the two disciples of John who

followed Jesus are satisfied and therefore talk about Him to others.

It is a new day, and Andrew one of John's disciples who saw where Jesus lived and told his brother Peter about it is on the beach of the Sea of Galilee when Jesus spots them and invites them to follow him. It is written in the Gospel of Matthew that they left their nets and followed Jesus. A little further and two other brothers James and John also were invited and they too left their father and nets and followed Jesus {MT:4;18-22} in His mission of executing the fathers will. These followers of Jesus changed their lives in order to be with Him. He was an itinerant preacher who never held any office, went to a college and ever owned a house. His credentials were the word of love He preached to the many thousands that gathered, the miracles He performed, the comfort and consolation He brought to the poor and afflicted without any charge.

### **Man with a Mission**

It must be understood that before his Baptism, Jesus lived in Nazareth with His mother Mary. *Mark the Evangelist says that after His Baptism Jesus was led into the desert by the spirit, where He fasted without food for forty days and nights.* It was during this time that He was tempted by the evil spirit and on each occasion He denied Satan the satisfaction of victory over Him. It is therefore most probable that Jesus did not return to His childhood home since it would be more difficult for Him to have a fixed abode and go around preaching the word of God to all of Judea and Galilee.

Food and shelter are two fundamental human necessities and yet **in order to destroy the power Satan has over man He denied himself these very necessities to show man the root cause for man's failure.** It was also during this period of forty days prayer that is His communication with God, He gained immense strength as a human being to fight and resist the evil spirit by curbing the demands of the body that tempts all men and women alike. The human body needs food but by His denying that requirement to the body He was able to curb all desires of the flesh, strengthen the spirit and be Master of himself. **With every retort to Satan He showed all humans their weakness for comfort, wealth, power and glory and also their lack of confidence in God.**

Word spread very fast because of His teaching with authority and also many others followed Him because they were satisfied that He would lead them out of this darkened world. He performed many miracles too, that astounded the people of Judea and its environs and still more people began to believe in Him and follow Him. Moreover the miracles He performed were not magical performances that were caused by illusions of the mind but hard factual evidence which proved beyond a shadow of doubt that He was from above. When He cured the blind, deaf, dumb, lame, lepers and all who came to Him with incurable diseases, they began to believe in Him. When He fed a multitude of people they considered him as King and God when He told the widows dead son at Nain, “*Young man I say to you, rise!*” The dead man sat up and began to speak... {LK:7; 11-17}.. **It is God alone who has power over life and death; therefore He shows that He is the Son of God. He shows what he claims to be.**

One of the greatest miracles He worked to show that He was from the father and conveying God's message was, when He brought back to life Lazarus who was dead and buried for four days. This is an event which proves that he is the son of God who came in human form and that it is God who gave him the power to bring back Lazarus to life. By this miracle he brought glory not only to himself but to the Father and thereby showed that He and the Father think and behave as One. **It should be remembered that though He was a human being He was dead to sin, the primary cause for death, and therefore death could not hold him forever. He had won the battle over death when He used His free will and rejected Satan in the desert. Every man born into this world is assured of death but for him to remain in death is decided by his own free will.**

Death has no hold on Jesus Christ the Master, since He has conquered death by His own Resurrection. Elsewhere He says "But take courage; I have conquered the world!"{JN:16:33}. By this Jesus means that He conquered sin which is the cause of death and leads him to eternal life. He conquered death by the use of His free will for the love and good of the poor and downtrodden people. The crowd taunted him when He was crucified to the cross "He saved others; he cannot save himself" {MK:15:29-31}. **With his Resurrection He proved beyond all doubt that He was and is and will remain forever the Son of the living God who came down as a human being.**

## Co-operation of the Slave

**This is the Master we must come to know, believe and follow if we are to receive the reward of eternal life promised to us after death.** Because Jesus himself was able to accomplish as a human being, the mission entrusted to him by His father, He is able to promise eternal life to those who believe, trust and accept His teaching. **If we love Him as He loved the Father and do as He wants us to do, our lips will confess the truth.** Our lips should confess what we firmly believe and not what we make believe.

A pertinent question that need be asked is; how can Jesus the Master free the slave from sin? Does He weave a magical spell that causes the slave to turn away from sin? The simple answer is no, for without co-operation from the slave He cannot free the slave. A desire for freedom must exist within the slave. Here, we are once again faced with the most important decision of our life. Each one should make up his or her mind in deciding whom he or she wants to follow. **Jesus can free anyone from sin only if he or she co-operates with Jesus.** Therefore, it is his free will that accounts for his freedom or ruination. **The free will that led man away from God and into the slavery of sin is also what leads him back to God and that too only if he is determined.** It is similar to a student who makes no effort to study and make progress in his life. The boy can succeed in his examinations only if he pursues his studies diligently and with determination

There are occasions when we attempt to convince ourselves that we are right and doing as Jesus commanded but, within



our hearts we know it as otherwise. How can we show love to an enemy or neighbour whom we dislike if we avoid meeting that enemy or person we dislike? A simple example illustrates the situation. When I see a neighbour I dislike walking on the same side of the road towards me, I take evasive action to refrain from talking to him and justify my evasiveness. In truth I did not like to meet and talk to the individual. **If our lips confess what we firmly believe, then we will not take evasive action but fulfill our hearts desire which is to be a servant and slave to the word of God and talk to that individual we dislike or hate.** It is only then that the world will come to know the real Jesus who taught as the master, slaved for the word in the service of God, served His people as a servant and now calls those who follow him; 'friends'.

## The Enemy Within

### Chapter Four

#### Perfect Love

The old order of life, before the coming of Jesus Christ was, **“an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth”**. Revenge was the order of the day and so it was intrigue, might and power that prevailed. However, with the coming of Jesus a new order was established, though it must be accepted that the old order was not completely eradicated since it was against the grain of many who were enjoying certain privileges of wealth and power to accept the change. The change was for the benefit and upliftment of the poor and downtrodden.

The new order which is called and defined as love was in existence from the time of Moses but not practiced and prevailed upon. The Evangelist Luke in his writing refers to Jesus as having said, *“ But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.....Do to others as you would have them do to you”* {LK; 6; 27-31}. Matthew in his work adds as Jesus having said, *“For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? If you.....? Be perfect therefore, as your heavenly father is perfect”* {MT: 5; 44-48}. Here comes into effect one of the greatest challenges and situations most people are confronted with.

It should be noted that Jesus urges those who give ear to Him, *to be perfect as the heavenly father is perfect*. He does not

draw attention to himself, who we consider as the perfect model of all humanity, but to His Father the creator of all people. They turn to be good or bad people according to their own will. Jesus is showing us that if God created the man who despises even the name of God and still provides him with life to live as that individual wants, then it proves that God loves even that man who has turned to evil ways and habits; God has not denied that man the sun, moon, rain and all of nature. That individual turned to evil ways of his own free will and yet God does not hold on to a grudge but gives freely of all His good and love. Therefore Jesus is drawing our attention to the perfect embodiment of love who is God the Father; hence His admonishment to His followers to be perfect as the heavenly father is perfect. **The revenge which existed in the old order is replaced with love, for it is only love that can eradicate all hatred.** Then again He is inadvertently telling man, that as a human even though you have become imperfect, you can still be perfect like the father because you were made to the likeness of the father with a free will. **It is very clear, we must love as God loves.**

In the teachings of Jesus 'Love' is the basic ingredient and on it hinges the rest of His teaching. It becomes necessary for us to understand the true nature of love that Jesus refers to. The first and most important aspect is to be able to love as the Father loves. That means with true forgiveness and charity in mind and heart. **One can only stand agape at this sacrificial act of true, pure, innocent, forgiving love which is divine but can and must be emulated by all men to share in the inheritance preordained.** Just as the Father sacrificed the Son to redeem man and the Son sacrificed His life to show man the

way, man too must sacrifice all lustful desires and treasures of this world. This is the wonderment of God's love and this love must exist in conjugal and filial love if these two aspects of love are to be perfect. Conjugal love or the love between husband and wife will be successful only if true, sincere forgiveness exists in their lives just as filial love needs sincere forgiveness and be free of lust to be called true brotherly love.

How difficult it is for one to love another who has hurt him by word or action? The first step in the process of continuing in the love which God gave us is absolute forgiveness of the wrong done to us by another. **God does not hold on to the wrong done to him, then why do we persist with the wrong done to us?** How very ungodly and wicked it is. Is it not because **our free will** does not permit us to express ourselves in words such as, "I forgive you, please forget what was said and happened; I am still your friend as my God is still your God?" Recall the words of Jesus *"For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have."* Then it becomes necessary for us to love even our enemies. It is our free will that leads us to create our enemies; **we create our enemies by destroying the love that is born with us, and the animation of our ambition, pride and hate. We are born out of love but identified with the sin of our first parents and therefore tainted with original sin.**

It is not difficult to love someone who loves us because that individual will overlook our failures if true love exists. In fact we are happy to reciprocate with love to the one who loves us. **The difficulty comes to light when we are unable to love another who dislikes or hate us; it is easier said than done.**

The evil that is within us prevents us from doing what is right and just. **The truth is that pride prevents us and therefore we become our own enemies, because we are unable to make the right choice of the free will given to us. The evil that is within prevents one from taking** the first step of communicating and rectifying all that is wrong. The **ego** in man does not permit him to abide by the good of his free will. The right and just thing would be to love that individual because that is how the perfect love of God spreads across all borders and barriers. That is how a new kingdom and society is born. **“For, in fact, the kingdom of God is within you” says Jesus {LK:17;21}**

### **Humility and Free Will**

Jesus did overcome that human weakness of pride even when He was crucified on the cross and pleaded with the Father to forgive those who crucified Him. Jesus, the man who raised the dead to life, did not fight against the decision of the Jews to crucify Him even though He had the power to do it. The humility of the Son is equal to the Father's. **The one being who can and should be proud is the Creator God; yet He humbles himself to the extent that He sends His only Son to show man the way back to eternity. Then God shows us that the perfect embodiment of love is composed of humility and purity of heart and mind.** That is one reason why it does take a lot of strength and courage to take the first step of loving those who dislike you. Pride has no place in truthful love. **The lack of humility denies one the ability of loving those who hate us and living by God's commandment of love.**

One is tempted to ask, how did the Son of Man called Jesus, who is the master, channel His free will to abide by the Fathers will. A close study of the temptations Jesus experienced in the desert during his forty days of prayer, fast and abstinence from food shows His ability to control all human desires. He regarded all material things; as desires of the flesh and all that enhances the desires of the flesh. Turning away from all the perishable desires of the world was the basic foundation for His commitment to the Father's word. Elsewhere He says "*My food is to do the will of him who sent me*" {JN: 4; 34 ;} this suggests that for him, doing His Father's work was everything to Him; **His whole mind was focused only on achieving His Father's word.** This also means establishing His supremacy over Satan was of the utmost importance if He was to succeed in showing man the way back to God. **Therefore, He himself must use His free will as a man to drive away all evil desires and inclinations that confronted Him. Therefore, also He realized and understood that the free will given to man is what Satan always attacks since it is by this free will that he gains dominion over man.**

The evil that developed with every individual since his or her birth continues within each one until such time as he or she is able to divest themselves of it. **Very often we lack the ability and concentration required to remain with the word of God.** The distractions caused by all the glamour, glitter and power of the world draw many away from the truth that God is love. Therefore it is easy for Satan to draw man to himself by showing man the allurements of the world. **Jesus experienced these allurements, but He was strong in mind and heart and determined that He kept His focus only on the word of**

**God. He became strong when He understood that man gives into evil because of a weakness for earthly desires. He knew if man despises all earthly treasure and values He would succeed and that is why He shows man the way.** This also is why He always quotes scripture to Satan at every temptation. Therefore Jesus tells, *“Watch and pray that you do not give into temptation.”* **Each individual has the capacity to destroy the evil that is within him if he would only apply himself to accomplishing that task, but acting to the contrary he humiliates himself before Satan to obtain all earthly treasure.**

### **Judgment and the Many Times**

There also is another aspect to forgiveness of others. Perhaps there are those who forgive the wrong done to them and expect love to flourish with their neighbour. An inward look at ourselves will show the many times and occasions we failed to adhere to God’s word despite the fact that we promised Him very solemnly not to fall into that sin again. However due to our weakness we fall over again and once more seek pardon and redress. Have we ever kept count of the many times we offend God or fellow being? Then do we keep count of the many occasions when the so called enemy offends us? Are we not attempting to destroy the good in us by keeping a record of all the wrong or injustice another has done to us? Is not that the reason Jesus tells Peter *“seventy seven times”*

This is in answer to Peter’s question of how many times he should forgive another. Jesus answering tells him *“Not seven times, but, seventy seven times”* {MT: 18; 22}. Thus it is very evident that we should not keep a record of all the times we

pardon our neighbour when he offends us. Our lack of faith and sincerity in mind and heart leads us to do this very thing. The human tendency is to look with aversion upon the fellow being since the mind has already passed judgement on the individual and no one has the right to judge another since each and everyone is subject to judgement by God the Almighty.

He who made us knows our minds and hearts and is aware of our intentions whether good or bad. What the neighbour thinks of my good actions, may be sinful in the presence of God if my intentions are not pure. Then how can anyone judge another's thoughts words and actions? In fact many are those who would even seek revenge and revenge is not becoming of the Lord. This is why Jesus says "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgement." {JN;7;24.} "*Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven;.the measure you give will be the measure you get back.* " {LK;6;37-38} All these admonishments of Jesus reveal only one fact, that man must change his attitude towards others and love with humility. It is not a superficial change but a deep inward change of mind and heart.

The writing is very clear; we bring condemnation upon ourselves by the evil within us. The time has come when we must purge ourselves of the evil within, if we are to be as perfect as the Heavenly Father. No doubt Jesus understood the human's weakness and that is why He constantly urged them to pray. It is not that prayer works as a miracle but when in prayer the mind is kept focused on God and that means the probability to offending God is minimal. In the present day world it is



most difficult and almost impossible at times to have ones mind focused on the word of God. However, this is the only way in which we can emancipate our lives from the clutches of Satan and be aware of our ultimate goal at the end of our life. Unless and until we give thought to our future life we shall remain in the darkness of this world.

The distant scene, on the cover page shows the heavens and the waters of the deep blue sea meeting; but it is only an optical illusion. The artist has given the impression of steps to reach the heavens and climbing those steps is the man we call Jesus Christ who is burdened with a cross. He showed the way to get to the kingdom of God carrying that heavy burden. The cross was imposed upon Him by a people who shared no love with others, but Jesus loved all even those who hated Him. The cross He carries signifies the trials and difficulties of loving even those who hate Him and crucified him. This means that we too will have to carry a burden whenever we love other fellow men as Jesus wanted. Therefore we must be prepared to carry our cross and part with old habits and sinful ways if we want to live forever with Jesus Christ in His kingdom.

## Parting of the Ways

### Chapter Five

#### Certainty of Death

Many talk of the uncertainties of life and yet there is nothing more certain than death. As often happens in life few are prepared for death. **Death is considered the most dreadful event in a man's life.** Why does man fear death? Is it because he is so attached to the world and he would rather live forever in this world or is it because he is unaware of another and better world? Then again may be he is satisfied with all the wealth, power and glory he enjoys in this world during his short span of life.

How very foolish to be attached to this life and this world, because in the first instance man did not come into existence of his own merit and therefore he must be ready to give up his life on earth, when the force or power that placed him on this earth recalls him even without notice. He must remember nothing in this world belongs to him because he came empty handed and therefore whatever he acquired he must necessarily leave behind; because he cannot take away anything that he called his own. It may be wealth, and power which he obtained with cunningness and deceit or even what God intended for him to enjoy as long as he lived this life on earth. **Man can be certain of death but uncertain of where he goes after death. Do you know your final destination?**

**All that he takes away with him is whatever good or bad his mind, heart, body and soul may have committed in this life.**

His spirit which governed his body will part their ways at this moment of death. The spirit will return to the maker with whatever good or bad that has been committed, and the body returns to the dust of the earth. The spirit faces reward for the good decisions of the free will and penalty or punishment for the bad or evil decisions the free will directed the mind and heart to act upon. **Just as the body and spirit part at the time of death, so too must man of his own accord sever himself from all evil habits, thoughts and desires that are displeasing to God the Father Almighty, if he is to receive an eternal reward promised by the Son.**

**Spirit and Hate**

The time will come when those who are desirous of reaching the eternal kingdom must begin to change their old sinful habits and it will cause confusion in the minds of those who associated with them. If these people called us friends because of our attachment to worldly pleasures, and they still continue in their attachment to the world they would even consider us suitable candidates for a lunatic asylum. Many will be the aspersions cast on us, many will be the accusations hurled at us and if our intentions are pure and pleasing to God we must bear in mind the words of Jesus as described in John chapter fifteen. ***“If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own.....I have chosen you out of the world- therefore the world hates you. {JN:15; 18-20}”***

Jesus says “**I have chosen you...**” and for him to choose us the spirit of God must be with us and for that spirit to be in us we must come to know the Holy Spirit. **The Holy Spirit exists in the Word of God and therefore that spirit can enter our lives when we have come to know the Word of God for it is only then that we can desire and invite the Holy Spirit to be present in our lives.** However, we have surrounded ourselves with evil desires and habits that prevent the spirit of the word from entering our lives and therefore we continue to remain in the darkness of sin. We do know of the Word of God but not given much thought to it so that it remains as a redundant factor in our lives. We have hardly acted upon the word in sincerity. *Light can and will shine upon us only when we have come to know Jesus, acted upon the spirit of the word He spoke and then He will send the Holy Spirit to guide us through life as promised by Him.*

Jesus also says, “Many are called but few are chosen.” Question as to why a few are chosen causes confusion in the mind, when he says many are called. The fact remains that everyone who calls himself a Christian is called but only a few adhere to the teachings of Jesus. Following Jesus means giving up all worldly attachments and desires. This means dying to selfish living and accepting selfless love and sacrifice. **Detachment from worldly pleasures creates a vacuum which must be filled with attachment to the word of God.** The Spirit of the word of God cannot abide in those that reject the teachings of Jesus Christ, which means that those who reject Jesus’ teaching accept the ways of the world; **whereas the Spirit advocates detachment from the world and attachment to Jesus.**

In His teaching, Jesus exhorts His followers to eat His flesh and drink His blood that they may have eternal life. He also says **“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them”{JN:6;53-58}** This means that since Jesus lives forever if we eat of His body we too shall live forever. These words of Jesus may sound cannibalistic to the nonbeliever, but it is the spirit of His words that give strength and conviction to His followers to eat His flesh in the form of bread and drink His blood in the form of wine offered daily at the sacrifice of the Holy Mass. **He provided all His followers with His body and blood when He broke bread and gave them to eat at the last supper {MK:14;22-25}.**

The words uttered by the chosen, "**THIS IS MY BODY, THIS IS MY BLOOD**" are reminiscent of the words spoken by Jesus at the Last Supper. The lips of the priest or chosen one proclaims what he believes to be true and that the spirit of Jesus enters the bread when he utters the words of Jesus “This is My body...”. It is no more bread but transforms itself into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Then when we participate we make claim to the transubstantiation of that piece of bread as the Body and Blood of Jesus. **This also means that when we eat the bread given to us at the sacrifice of the mass we believe that the spirit of Jesus is present in that piece of bread and therefore we are partaking of His Flesh and Blood. Then it means that every time I eat His body and drink His blood He enters my body, mind and heart just as much as He enters your mind and heart when you receive His body. Therefore we become one in mind and heart. We are one body living in Jesus Christ. There is no room for enmity or anger among us when**

Jesus is present in us. Therefore whenever we receive His body we must be free of all evil thoughts and desires; we must be pure of mind and heart for if we are guilty of sin we bring condemnation upon ourselves. It is similar to man coming into existence with God giving the breath of life to man.

### **Time and Hate**

Hate could be described as an intense dislike for an individual or thing. It is used relative to the degree of dislike of a person, place or thing. The cause for the hatred is built on the will of the individual concerned. There are those who say, as an example, "I dislike that food," and there are those who say, "I hate that food." The intensity of dislike turns into hate and that is the hatred with which Jesus was treated. At times men hate each other, caused by an uncontrollable anger, to the extent that they even resolve to murder and revenge.

The world at that time hated Jesus so much they tortured and crucified Him to death. **Here is the one person who loved them, cured their sicknesses, restored the dead to life, showed love and compassion to the afflicted and yet they repaid His love with hatred. He never charged a cent for His services, it was all for love of the Father.** His love was sincere and pure. It was a love from the purity of heart and mind. Now Jesus tells all those who change their lives and follow His way of life, that they too would suffer the same consequences as He did. Therefore, **their love for Jesus must be from the purity of their hearts and minds.**

## Time

The time we have on hand is whatever time the Almighty gives to each individual. **Man cannot waste his time in anger, hatred, revenge and jealousy because time does not belong to him and he must be ready to give up his time on earth when called upon to do so.** Anyone cannot hope for the next minute, because that minute belongs to God. If that minute belongs to God, then we have no time of our own. Therefore God can take us away whenever he chooses. **Therefore also we must never anticipate the next minute, hour or day, but consider our life as ending with every next minute.** In that way the likelihood of doing wrong is minimal because we would not have any undue attachment to the things of this world. We would see that everything is in the hands of God and therefore give of our best to serving Him as a servant or slave. When we have ended this life as Jesus taught us then we can expect Him to call us “friend”.

## The Friend Who Lives Forever

### Chapter Six

#### True Friend

***“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”*** {JN: 15; 12-17}. This is not fiction but stark reality. Jesus Christ came down to earth to lay down His life for all people; the good and bad, rich and poor. He loved all and He says ***“Love one another as I have loved you.”*** Do you believe that Jesus laid down His life for you? He also says, ***“I came to call sinners and not the righteous”*** {MT: 9;13}. Do you accept the fact that you are a sinner and that you need change your life? Then He must be your friend and you would be following His commandment of love without which you would not be His friend. Then also you could truly say you are His friend because you follow his word of loving one another. How happy must they be who call Jesus their friend?

“Who is a friend?” This question was asked of a small boy. His reply was that a friend would not desert him at any crucial moment especially at the point of death. This is not how it happened with Jesus and yet He called those who give ear to His words ‘friend’.

One so called friend betrayed Him in order that he may gain earthly treasure; Judas betrayed Him for thirty pieces of silver. He knew that Judas would betray Him and even so He called him friend. One of His first followers denied knowing Him three times. Fear of being accused and killed for following Jesus the master; Peter denied any knowledge of Jesus. The



others who ate and drank with Him and called Him Master, fled away for fear of the Jews. He foresaw the betrayal by Judas, the denial of Peter and the desertion of all his other followers and yet He called them His friends; the truly magnanimous gesture of unfathomable forgiveness and love of a true friend.

Jesus says, “*You are my friends if you do what I command you*” {JN: 15; 14}. This means that anyone who wants to be a friend of Jesus needs a qualification. It is not a qualification that is awarded by an institution or college of education. It simply means that we must satisfy Jesus by doing what He commands us to do and that command is, “*I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another*” {JN:13;35}. His disciples came to know Him when they walked the streets of Galilee with Him **and lived His command after He rose from the dead**. The one thing He tells us to do is love one another as He loves us. The reason behind His request is only then will others come to know about Him. Because He says, “*By this everyone will know you are my disciples*” and being His disciple means we are teaching others to follow Jesus which is to love one another and live in forgiveness of the spirit. This is the beginning of “*a new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness prevails.*” [2Pe:3;13]. This is how the earthly beings join the heavenly ones.

It is good for each one to look deep within himself, examine his conscience and see the extent to which God loves him and Jesus loved him. Should he truthfully accept the fact that Jesus died to save him from eternal damnation, it would not be

difficult to love his fellowmen as Jesus loved. Therefore we have to prove ourselves worthy for Him to call us His friends. He is inviting me to be His friend by obeying His command of love. If I love Him in sincerity then I shall obey Him and be with Him for eternity. Jesus who lives forever wants me to be His friend; it is not for a day or short time as the earth experiences but forever; how can I refuse to live as He commands if I too want to live forever?

There are the many times one feels abandoned and lonely and seek human consolation and comfort. Think for a moment what Jesus felt at that Garden of Gethsemane. The three friends who escorted Him were fast asleep when He needed their consolation and, even His beloved Father, who had said, **“This is my beloved Son in whom I am pleased”**, would not change His plan of salvation, because God loves man and, needed man to learn obedience from His Son and thereby return to Him. The person begins to feel as though the whole world is against him and at those moments, if he has obeyed his master’s command he need not have any insecurity within him, because he should realize and understand that God never abandons. He is one friend who will be there for him always. Everything passes away with time but since Jesus lives forever, He is always there for His friends. We may fall on the way and not cope with His command yet He is the forgiving friend and therefore I need only to look at Him and seek redress. His friendship is true, lasting and eternal.

Friends of this world today are gone tomorrow. Every single friend passes away with time. There are friends who exist only when the world is shining upon you and when difficulties and

trials assail they seem to be gone with the wind. How very sad to realize that friends are time servers! It is not so with Jesus because the whole world may hate and abandon you for what you are but He remains with you should you call out to Him. He laid down His life for you once because He is the true friend who lives forever being the Son of God. Would you like to desert such a friend?

## **The Mother of the Lamb**

### Chapter Seven

There is a saying which reads as, “**The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world**”. The truth of this statement is brought to reality in Mary the Mother of Jesus the Lamb of God. A deeper look into the changes that Jesus and Mary brought upon the entire human race can never be expressed in words. This is a fact every individual must realize for himself. It is most certainly beyond our comprehension to understand how a teenage girl, who was not wealthy nor a princess or goddess could wield such tremendous power as to change the whole history of the human race.

Mary, the daughter of Joachim and Anne, betrothed to a humble carpenter named Joseph, was herself a simple, humble teenage Jewish girl who lived in obedience to her parents. An outstanding characteristic of Mary was her humility which was first manifested when she tells the Angel Gabriel that she accepts God’s invitation of being Mother to His Son the Lamb of God; think for a moment, what pride would prevail in the heart of a princess if she were invited to be the Mother of the Son of God. Even though she had no husband, she was prepared to sacrifice her life for the love of God. According to the law of the time women who bore children out of marriage were stoned to death. Her love for God was so great that she accepts her mission with humble words. Her lips spoke what was in her heart; “***Let it be done unto me according to your word***”

It is our duty to thank God for Mary using her free will to consent to being the Mother of the Son of God. Think for a moment, what would be the world today if Mary permitted her will to wander away from God's request. The fear of being stoned to death would have prevented a normal girl from answering a 'yes', but Mary was full of all strength, courage, trust, confidence, love and all grace that she agreed. She was truly worthy to be the Mother of my God.

We also read that she visited her cousin Elizabeth who was pregnant with child, when she herself was carrying in her womb the Baby Jesus. Mary's one concern when informed of her cousin's condition was to visit and be with Elizabeth because she felt her cousin, who was advanced in age, needed her presence. In the aura of her happiness, Mary never thought of herself but only of Elizabeth. In her condition she traveled a distance of almost seventy or eighty miles across desert land by foot in order to be with her cousin. It would have taken her probably a week or so. The courage of Mary is amazing; it is amazing grace of humility coupled with love indeed that gave the teenage Mary courage to undertake this tedious journey of mercy.

The magnanimity of her love for another woman is shown more with her response to Elizabeth's query of "...And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me". Elizabeth who was inspired by the spirit recognizes Mary as the Mother of her God and inquires in humility as to why Mary should visit her. Mary said "*My soul magnifies the Lord...he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his*

servant...” {LK:1;46-55} She says herself that God has chosen her because of her humility and slave like attitude of lowliness. Pride of being the Mother of God is not for Mary. She continues her life in all humility which is her trade mark.

It also is this humility which is witnessed in Jesus at the time of His Baptism by John the Baptist. Jesus pleads with John to be baptized. A close study of Mary’s response to Elizabeth reveals the preaching of Jesus. In the first part she praises God and acknowledges her unworthiness to be the servant of the Lord. She says how God despises the proud and puts down the mighty from their seat of power, fills the hungry, poor and downtrodden people and He sends away the rich empty handed. **It can be said that the Magnificat or praise of Mary is the summary of the teaching of Jesus.** This is what the Lord Jesus preached about during His three years of public life. This shows the influence Mary had in the teachings of Jesus.

It can be said that till the point of His Baptism Jesus was influenced by His mother. She guided Him in the ways and word of God. Her humility was poured out to Him and He continued in that spirit. The love Mary had for others is depicted in the narration of the wedding feast where Jesus performed His first miracle at the request of His mother. Initially He tells her that the shortage of wine is not His concern. She however having brought up her son to love and obey knows very well that He would not refuse her and therefore tells the waiters to do whatever He says. He thereafter changes six jars of water into wine because He could not disobey His mother neither could He reject all the values imbibed in Him by His mother.

It is no wonder then that Mary was the guiding hand in changing the old ways, attitudes and laws that were a burden upon the people. He valued His Mother so much He gifted her to all mankind at the foot of the cross that they too may benefit from her guiding hand. He wanted all those who give ear to His words to give the same attention to whatever His mother says. That is why she constantly appears from time to time giving different messages to the world urging man to change his ways and return to God. She truly is the mother who rocks the cradle that rules the world. Remember the question and answer of Jesus **“Who are my mother and my brothers? ”** **“...Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother”**{MK:3;33-35} Mary was obedient to the will of God and she showed her son Jesus the path to obedience and now He is giving that same mother to be our mother and guide as brothers and sisters of Himself.

How fortunate are we to have Mary as our mother. Whenever we fail to honour her as our mother we fail to give ear to her plea. She too like her son Jesus wants all people to return to God with and in love. She showed the word made flesh how to abide by God's love as a human. Therefore He entrusts all those who listen to His voice to the loving care of His mother. She being the loving mother that she is will never waver, but lead us as her loving sons and daughters to that ultimate goal in life. Confide in her and sleep safe in her arms as the Lamb of God did.

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Mary The Mother of The Lamb