

Pierre Goursat

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Truly, the way of the Lord, is Jesus, meek and humble of heart.

Pierre Goursat's teaching for the retreat during which the first 'consecrations' into the heart of the Fraternity of Jesus were made. He highlights in particular the importance of humility, as well as the relationship between adoration and mission.

Truly, the way of the Lord, is Jesus, meek and humble of heart. If we become like this, we are saved and we'll save all those who we're meant to save. Even more than this, if we are meek and humble of heart, he'll gently penetrate our hearts. It's an extraordinary path to walk. But don't fiddle around with your heart. And so, this will send us waves of living water. Obviously, we must be transformed before it can rebound [onto others]. And we'll get waves of the living water of compassion. And this will wash us clean of everything, we'll be carried away in a torrent of fire and water, both at the same time. And we'll be transported to eternal life. I really did just say: "to eternal life". It's that simple! But above all, we mustn't be looking at ourselves. Or at others. Or finding them magnificent. But instead, seeing Jesus in each of them. Adoring Jesus in each one of us. It's extraordinary. That's all. We've been caught up in a fantastic adventure [...]. That we had nothing to do with. We really can believe this. Humility, it's the truth. And now, we've been saved, we're small, we're simple, we can't manage anything, we're simply meek and humble. The Lord penetrates our heart. It flows out on all sides. We're completely overrun, filled up, bathed in it, transformed [...].

Look at Jesus of Nazareth, look at all the gossip, all of his brothers and all of his "fake brothers". All the people jeering. They don't see anything. And Jesus goes on. And then, they say: "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." (cf. Lk. 8:19-21). He replies: "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it". At this point, [Jesus] doesn't care at all who's around him.

It's not at all a stupid secret for intelligent people: "Heart of Jesus, in whom is found all the treasures of wisdom and science¹". Well, come on, you who are intelligent, the intellectuals, come and draw from the source. And come make yourselves small so you can have access to knowledge. This is also a step you can make using your intelligence. St Thomas [Aquinas] taught at the Sorbonne [...]. He said: "Now I have my diplomas – 'the donkey hides' –, well, now I can start studying, start trying to understand". And it's this humility of the wiseman, this humility of the theologian coming before his God. St Thomas would cry in front of the Blessed Sacrament, asking for the response [to his questions]. And the Lord gave it to him [...].

I would like to share with you something which touches my heart every time we talk about the Heart of Jesus: [what we're experiencing right now], it's similar to the *Petits Frères de Jésus* (the Little Brothers of Jesus). I thought we could call each other "little brother" and actually be that in reality. But I said to myself: "It's a bit awkward, we mustn't look like we're copying them". The brothers of Fr. Foucauld called each other "universal little brothers". He didn't create anything. This was very painful for him. He died completely alone. And afterwards, it grew! And I thought, Fr Voillaume [...] could feel Fr. Foucauld's idea and he founded the Little Brothers of Jesus. And I said to myself: "It's extraordinary, these people, they don't exist, and yet they get everywhere [...] out to the poorest". And I understood that when we talk about the "universal brothers", the whole world really is concerned. This happened during the 30s: all the Little Brothers who went everywhere and truly gave witness in poverty [...]. They entered into an interior poverty. They were the poor amongst the poor. So, they were qualified to talk about it [...]. It's this same spirit [of poverty, with which we must live].

We can draw a comparison between Fr. Foucauld and Theresa of the Child Jesus [...]. For Theresa of the Child Jesus' "little way", there's no problem. We don't say: "Ah, she was Carmelite, so [her 'little way'] is for Carmel". On the contrary, we must say: "It's bigger than Carmel!" She is for us all. It's really with the Heart of Jesus. And I was thinking last night, that Fr.

1 Invocation from the litany of the Sacred-Heart, inspired by Col. 2:3.

Foucauld, well it's the same thing! Even more so as he never founded an order. He [founded] nothing at all. When we have nothing, we can do everything! Well, it's exactly that! So, we can really take something from him too. Not just from him, but [the Fraternity of Jesus] is in this vein. And it's a vein of humility [...].

Here, now, are some practical elements. Firstly, there's the motto "meek and humble of heart". We have to look at ourselves every day to see if we are meek and humble of heart [...]. Humility, it's simple, honestly, you stop being anxious. Truly humble are those who do not worry, because they're children and they know they have a Father, who is all-powerful and who loves them. God is all, he is all-powerful and he loves me... So, it's ok! [...]. And you can make acts of humility. By doing these acts of humility, little by little, you'll obtain humility [...]. If you're from Paris or anywhere else [...], do like Fr. Foucauld does: go and pray. Say [to the Lord]: "You know the mediocrity of life, but you, you're extraordinary, so I come to you, you are the lung which enables me to breathe" [...]. So really, go and take a bit of oxygen [...].

So then, adoration, you've understood, you "adore". But it's not just a word! And you're going to say to me: "But I'm so busy!" As St. Francis de Sales said to a bishop who was too busy to pray for one hour: "Well, pray for two hours then!" The more you're busy, [the more] you must pray [...]. It's essential.

I'm telling you this because Fr. Foucauld is the 'universal brother', which is in the image of the world. In France, we really have a universal spirit [...]. That's why we find it so hard to listen to each other, we spend our time criticising each other, we're too focussed on this "hexagon" and we're suffocating! We should be going out everywhere [...].

So, what can we do about this "hexagon"? Well, we don't stay in it. You are missionaries [...]. You go out, if you can; and if not, you stay, but you are missionaries by your spirit, like St. Theresa of the Child Jesus was [...]. Like Francis-Xavier, Theresa of the Child Jesus is patron of missions: a small religious sister in her Carmel who is patron of missions! So, what did she do in her Carmel? [...]. Well, she would walk for a missionary. If you don't know what to do, well you say: "My God, I am walking for a missionary" [...]. Any little thing, because it's the love that transforms. We need to have bigger areas. The more we are stuck inside these "caves", the more we need space. Well, [even when alone] we are with brothers [whom we carry in our prayers]; and this is not running away, it's a reality! We are in this world and we "possess" the world; we have the Heart of Jesus, and we have a universal heart. And this is what transforms us and makes us joyful!

Pierre Goursat
and his brothers and sisters

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