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Firstly adore Then, there's compassion

A talk given by Pierre Goursat, on small sacrifices, adoration, and compassion, during a retreat with the Fraternity of Jesus.

So, practically, how can we be radical? Well, we can be radical like Therese of the Child Jesus by doing really small sacrifices, but continuously. Small sacrifices, sacrificing our self-love, our will, by listening to others when they're speaking – before speaking to them, we listen [...]. Through this, the Lord keeps us. He keeps us in love, in his love. I have been really touched by seeing people whom I found to be quite holy – we can make mistakes –, they were always welcoming, we always felt they had nothing other to do than to welcome us [...].

Firstly adore [...]. Then, there's compassion. We are in adoration: we find compassion, because he's suffering terribly, poor Jesus! So, we wake up, we stay awake, we hold ourselves; we are not voluntarists but we don't have a soft attitude, we really are radical, but with a discrete radicality, that's very important. So, adoration [leads us to] compassion: compassion for Jesus, for the others we see around us. And compassion opens our eyes, we perceive there are people next to us we hadn't seen before and who aren't saying anything, but whom we can help [...]. So, we do it. And at the same time, when we adore, when there is this compassion, a fire burns within us: this fire starts taking hold in adoration: [like] with the bellows in a forge, it develops with contact with others in this charity with others and afterwards, we are a real living torch. We run outside, saying: "Ah but Lord, Lord, come!" Like brother Francis [who] rolled in the mud in Assisi saying: "My Lord Jesus Christ isn't loved!" Well in this case, we say it, we carry the fire! People will say: "But what's up with this guy again?" But it's clear that it overwhelms them, there's something quite surprising. If we really have this fire in us, well we set fire to the whole village! And how much we are in need of burning! Look at the curé of Ars, everyone came to the curé of Ars [...]. So, mankind is made to burn. So put matches everywhere, you'll see the fire you'll create. But you're not striking your matches, you're keeping them in your gusset, it's silly! So that's it. But truly have this love. Really, adore. Adore, Adore [...].

We abide in his love. [We have to] pray to him and have our hearts blazing with love. So, we have a different way of seeing our brothers and sisters. And the Lord guides us towards this person whom we weren't thinking about or whom we didn't see, but it's the Lord who guides us. And the Lord suffers in this person or suffers with this person, and truly the Lord shows us. And we say: "But anyway, Lord, how could I have been so blind not to have seen there was this person near me that I needed to look after!" [...].

So, this grace of compassion, we have to ask for it because it's a grace which is given. And when we see the Lord in others, it's such a joy, it's fantastic! And this doesn't take us out of prayer with him, because we live with him. We abide with him and when we come back, we are shining, and we love our wife much more, our children, we are in peace, it's extraordinary [...].