

WHAT DOES THE CHILD JESUS HAVE TO SAY TO US?

*Christmas Message of Mother Adela, sctjm
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Dear Family,

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...and that Word is the light that enlightens all men. (cf. John 1)

In this year "Called to Live in the School of the Gospel," the event of Christmas becomes an immensely luminous and profoundly eloquent mystery before our eyes ... What does the Child Jesus have to tell us, the Word made flesh who has dwelt among us to illumine the meaning of our life? The eternal Word has become a small child, a child who was born in a stable, who they laid in a manger; who enters the world in the loving silence of a small infant: the definitive Word of God wanted to begin to speak to us from the silence of a newborn baby.

The fact that God has freely and perfectly chosen the way in which he came to the world, is already a whole teaching to which we should listen with open, pure, and humble hearts. What does the Child Jesus have to tell us about love, the love that is the sincere, total, unconditional and permanent donation for the beloved, the donating of the gift of life to do good, to make those we love and who God has put in our life happy, and to do good to others? What does the Child Jesus want to say to us about humility, that profound serenity that comes from knowing our true worth? What does he want to say to us about meekness, that sweet and generous abandonment to the will of God...that capacity to live without being willful, without rebellion, without resistance to God in the events of life? What does he want to say to us about simplicity and evangelical poverty, about learning to find happiness in the most profound values of the human heart, in those which truly satisfy our souls and thus order our relationship with the whole material world? What does he have to say to us about temperance and moderation, that virtue which impels us to detach ourselves from the disordered appetites of the flesh which result in gluttony for pleasures of the senses and in physical, affective, and emotional comforts? What does he want to say to us about obedience to the will of the Father, the obedience that we owe to those who are channels of the voice of God in our lives, and who become a sure guide for our steps? What does the Child Jesus want to say to us about peace, such a sublime and at the same time such a vulnerable gift which we can destroy with one word, one bad gesture, a hurtful attitude, self-interest or by absurd competitions or decisions made with bad intent; that peace that he came to bring to the world but would require noble and pure hearts to be able to build it with dedication, integrity and abnegation?

What does the Child Jesus have to say to us about the arrogance and pride that so often make the human heart sick and isolate it from others by its hardness, coldness and incapacity to become small before others? What does the Child have to tell us about vanity, the false conception of who we are...that if we appear great, beautiful, powerful, successful, if we appear this way, then we are living in the constant anguish of wanting to build our image upon a fantasy? What does he have to say to us about what is truly important in life, about love, forgiveness, patience, fidelity, friendship, generosity, goodness, solidarity, fraternity, beauty, charity...the true meaning of life? What does he want to tell us about the gift of life, the gift of family, the place where love is freely given and where one learns to give love in this way...where love must be built, defended and cultivated...where every life should be received with tenderness and celebrated with joy even when there might be difficulties along the way? What does the Child have to say to us about goodness, that powerful force that can transform the world...yes, what does this small Child have to say to us about the great strength of small but constant

good works? What does the Child have to say to us about reconciliation, that capacity to go back to fill the space that stayed empty or broken by wrong choices and created wounds? What does the Child have to say to all of us about all the dimensions of human life? What does he have to say to us about respecting others, about knowing how to enter the world of the other without interrupting it, without imposing my own interests, without dominating it or trespassing their space, but entering in silence, humility, and littleness as he entered the world? What does the Child have to say to us about justice, that perfect balance where love is the balance where all the realities are placed without giving it an excessive weight or inclining it towards what is convenient or is in our interest, without honoring the truth? What can the Child tell us about the tenderness, the capacity to receive and sustain the other, without possessing him, nor clinging to him, but rather touching him with hands that heal, elevate, and restore?

What does the Child have to say to us about all the things of our life, about our vocations, our families, our communities, about our life of virtue and holiness, human and Christian maturity? What does he have to say to us about the Kingdom of God, that Kingdom which only those who become like children enter, those who have a pure heart and clean hands...those who love with sincerity, without selfishness or conditions, those who serve with generosity and without expecting worldly or passing rewards?

The Word made flesh has spoken to us! The Child Jesus speaks with the potency of his birth: becoming incarnate in the virginal womb of Our Lady, being born from her maternal womb...the Only-Begotten Son of God being also the Son of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of She who was all of God and who disposed herself in everything to be "the handmaid of the Lord" allowing the Word to be realized and to be incarnated in her and through her. What does the Child Jesus want to say to us by placing himself under the custody of St. Joseph, his virginal father, a man who gave himself generously and faithfully to love him and guard him, who assumed his mission to be the face, the heart and hands of the Heavenly Father for the Child?

What does Bethlehem, the stable, the 'when' and 'who' have to say to us...? What does God made man want to say to us by being born in a place where no one expected the King of kings to be born? What does the logic of God about the "the where, the place" have to say to us...about the "when"..."the time", about the "how," about "those who are witnesses..." What does the event of Christmas have to teach us about the logic of God and ours? In the fullness of time, God became man, the Word was made flesh and that Word revealed in the Child Jesus, is the definitive Word of God to humanity.

Dear Family, this Christmas may we listen to what the Child Jesus has to tell us today and may his Word transform our heart and our whole life. May we, like Our Lady and St. Joseph, receive the Word made flesh into our hearts and give him a true home in our hearts. May we also go to Bethlehem not as spectators, but as witnesses that the Child Jesus is the definitive Word of God to men and that he has much to tell us!

May the Voice of the Child resound in our hearts!

*Mother Adela, SCTA
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