

Call on Jesus when in Trouble

from *Magnificat*

by Sr. Juana Inez De La Cruz (1695)

Speaking in the person of that very Lord, David says: "I have no need of your sacrifices or your holocausts. I do not receive your calves or your goats. Mine are all the birds of the sky and the beasts of the earth. Mine, the entire mechanism of the globe. Did you perhaps think that I fed Myself on the flesh of bulls or that I drank the blood of goats?" (Ps. 49:8-13)

Well, most high Lord, we might respond, "If You need nothing because everything is Yours; if You disdain our offerings and do not accept our sacrifices; if You are all powerful and infinitely rich, what can we do in Your service, poor creatures that we are?"

Look upon our distress! Though we are obligated to You for Your infinite benefits, there is nothing we can offer to You, Who have everything."

"Yes, you can," verse 14 of the same psalm seems to reply. "Give to God sacrifice of (1) *praise*, and (2) *keep the vows* of the Most High. (3) *Call on Me on the day of your distress. I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.*" (Ps. 50: 14-15)

It is as if He were saying, "You, you want to give something in return for everything I have given to you? Then (4) *pray and ask more of Me*, and this will be My payment. *Call on Me when you are in trouble*, and I will liberate you. This (5) *confidence* you have in Me will resound to My honor."

Oh, the beauty of divine love that calls what is a benefit to us, and honor to You! Oh, the wisdom of God! Oh, the generosity of God! And oh, what a demonstration of love worthy only of God!



For this God wants our love, for our good, not for His. The beauty of His gift of love is not, as the author maintains, that God does not desire our love in return, but that He desires this very thing for our sake. + + +

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2—Call on Jesus when in Trouble



***"Be merciful with everybody,
not depriving anyone of what is due to one,"
both amongst men and animals...
and God will be merciful with you
and will give you everything you need
as He does with these innocent creatures..."***

Jesus, the Boys, and the Birds

from *Poem of the Man-God*

It is a warm summer evening at sunset in the market place in Jericho. The large square is empty. There are few passers-by... some quarrelsome urchins throwing stones at the birds perched on the trees... some women go to the fountain... nothing else.

Jesus arrives from a side street, and looks around. He does not see His apostles yet. He waits patiently, leaning against the trunk of a tree, and finds the opportunity of speaking to the boys about charity that starts with God, and from the Creator descends to all creatures.

DO NOT BE CRUEL

"Do not be cruel. Why do you want to annoy the birds of the air? They have their nests up there, and their little ones. They do not harm anyone. They give us their chirping and cleanliness, because they eat the rubbish left by men, and the insects that are harmful to crops and fruit. Why would you wound them or kill them, depriving their little ones of their fathers and mothers, or the latter of their little ones?"

"Would you be glad if a wicked man came into your house and destroyed it, or killed your parents, or took you away from them? No, you would not be happy. Well then, why do you do to these innocent creatures, what you would not like done to yourselves? How will you refrain one day from doing harm to men if, children as you are now, you harden your hearts, and hurt defenseless, kind little creatures such as these birds?"

HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE HIS NEIGHBOR, DOES NOT LOVE GOD

"Do you not know that the Law says: 'Love your neighbor as yourself?' He who does not love his neighbor, does not even love God. And who does not love God, how can he go to His House and pray to him? God might say to him, and *He does say it in Heaven*: 'Go away. I do not know you. ...You, My son? No, you are not, You do not love your brothers, *you do not respect in them the Father Who created them*, so you are not a brother and a son, but an illegitimate child: a stepson to God... a stepbrother to your brothers.

SEE HOW GOD CARED FOR THE BIRDS

"See how the Eternal Lord loves? In the cold months, He makes His little birds find the barns full of hay, so that they may nest there. In the hot months, he protects them from the sun with the foliage of trees.

"In winter, the corn in the fields is just covered with earth, and it is easy for them to find the seed and nourish themselves. In summer, they quench their thirst with the juice of fruits, and they build solid, warm nests with hay and the wool left on brambles by sheep.

"And, he is the Lord. You, little men, created by Him like the little birds and therefore their brothers in creation, why do you want to differ from him and think that you can be cruel to these little animals?"

HE WILL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED

"Be merciful with everybody, not depriving anyone of what is due to one, both amongst men and animals, your servants, your friends, and God... and God will be merciful with you and will give you everything you need, as he does with these innocent creatures. Go and take the peace of God with you."

Jesus makes His way through the boys, as he sees some of his apostles coming from another street.

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