

## The Way of Perfection

### Part 5: Our Father

The Eucharist : Give us this Day

our Daily Bread

Chapter 33 (summary)

Saint Teresa of Avila

**Chapter 33** Deals with the great need we have that the Lord give us what we ask for in these words of the Our Father: Give us this day our daily bread.

Jesus knows that often we do not **understand** what the **Lord's will** is .... and that doing the Father's will is **difficult** ...

If we tell a **backbiter** that God's will for him is that he **love his neighbor** as himself, he will become impatient and will claim not to understand.

We can tell a **religious** that he should remember his obligation to give good example, be **faithful to his vows** and that these words need to be put into practice ... but it is useless to insist nowadays with some of them!

What would happen if the Lord had not provided the **remedy**? There would have been only a very few who would have carried out these words He spoke to His Father for us, **Thy will be done.**

Yet, once Jesus saw the need ... He made the following petition: "**Give us this day, Lord, our daily bread.**"

Let us understand, Sisters, what our good Master is asking for; it is a matter of life and death not to pass over these words hastily...

**2.** I think Jesus observed what He had given for us ... and that it was necessary for us to see His love and courage to be **awakened – not just once but every day.**

Once He saw all of this, He must have resolved to remain with us here below.

To do this was important and serious, so He desired it come from the Father's hand ...

Though they are one ... Jesus wanted, as it were, to **ask permission** ... He knew He was asking more in this request than in the others; He knew beforehand the death they would make Him die along with the dishonors and insults He would suffer.

**3.** Well, what father ... would consent that his son remain among us to suffer? Certainly,

Lord, no father but Yours ... What great **love** from the Son and what great love from the Father!

Since Jesus had already said, **Thy will be done**, He had to do that will ... which He does by **loving us as Himself**. He sought ways of doing it with **greater perfection** even though the fulfillment of this commandment was at a cost to Himself.

How is it Eternal Father that You consented? Why do you want to see Your Son every day in such wretched hands? ... You have seen how they treated Him. How can You see Him insulted day after day?

How many insults will be committed today against this **Most Blessed Sacrament!**

In how many enemies' hands must the Father see Him! How much irreverence from these heretics!

**4.** Why, Lord, do you accept such a petition? ... In exchange for doing Your will perfectly, and doing it for us, He allows Himself to be crushed to pieces each day ...

Why must all our good come at His expense? Why does He remain silent ... and speak only for us? Shouldn't someone speak for Him? [Allow me, Lord, to speak ... and beseech You ... ].

I have noticed how in this petition alone He repeats the words: first He asks the Father to give us this **daily bread**, and then repeats, "**give it to us this day, Lord,**" invoking the Father again.

It's as though Jesus tells the Father that He is now ours since the Father has given Him to us to die for us; and asks that the Father not take Him from us until the end of the world; that He allow Jesus to serve us each day.

May this move your hearts, my daughters, to love your Spouse ... who seems to willingly say He is a slave and honored to be one.

**5.** O Eternal Father! How much this **humility** deserves! What **treasure** do we have that could buy Your Son? The sale of Him was for **thirty pieces of silver**. Yet to buy Him, no price is sufficient.

By sharing in our **nature** Jesus has become one with us here below. As He is Lord of His own will, Jesus reminds the Father that as He belongs to Him, the Father can in turn give Jesus to us.

And so, He says, “**our bread.**” Jesus makes  
**no difference** between Himself and us, but we  
make one by not giving ourselves up each day  
for His Majesty.           Amen