

## **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

(Lk. 3:1-6) ((*Audio Year C Track 002*))

(*Poem* Vol. 1, pp. 242-3; *Gospel* Vol. 1, pp. 288-9; *Notebooks 1943*, pp. 501-2, 514)

***(This Gospel event was not actually witnessed by Maria Valtorta, however the following passages offer some insights into its message.***

***The first passage immediately precedes the meeting of Jesus with John the Baptist at the River Jordan. Maria Valtorta writes:)***

I am looking at the Jordan valley... and the wasteland on my right is the desert of Judah...

Near the Jordan, there is a great peace... It is a place that seems to be full of memories of angels' flights and celestial voices... I feel that I am in a place that communicates with my soul.

While I am watching these things, I notice that the right bank of the Jordan (in respect to me) is becoming crowded with people. There are many men dressed in different fashions. Some seem ordinary people, some rich, and there are some who appear to be Pharisees, because their tunics are adorned with fringes and braids.

In the midst of them, standing on a rock, there is a man whom I recognise at once to be the Baptist, although it is the first time I have seen him. He is speaking to the crowds, and I can assure you that his sermon is not a sweet one. Jesus called James and John "the sons of thunder". Well then, what should we call this impetuous orator? John the Baptist deserves the names of thunderbolt, avalanche, earthquake, so impetuous and severe he is in his speech and gestures.

He is announcing the Messiah, and exhorting the people to prepare their hearts for His coming, eradicating all obstructions, and rectifying their thoughts. But it is a violent and harsh speech. The Precursor does not possess the light hand Jesus used - to cure the wounds of hearts. He is a doctor who lays the wound bare, scrutinises it, and cuts it mercilessly...

***(Jesus dictates a message to Maria Valtorta - for those of us in the present times. He says:)***

"Twenty centuries have passed since a 'Voice' said what Isaiah had already said: 'Prepare the ways of the Lord'... I am coming to feed my lambs once more, and to sustain the sheep that suckle - that is, the ministers of Christ who give you the milk of his Word.

Leave aside what is not my pasture land. Gather around the Cross. It is the banner of victory over all man's enemies. All the enemies: The external ones constituted by wars, pestilences, and famine. The internal ones, which are doubly and incalculably destructive. They are constituted by a worldly spirit, by rationalism, and by the threefold idolatry: the intrigues of Satan.

Open your eyes, O men. Remove from them the scale - which has piled up so much error for you - and see Me: Me as I am, in all my power as the Triune God, your Creator, Redeemer, and Enlivener.

Humble your proud clay, which is not capable of anything eternal. And recognize your nothingness, which is great only if God breathes into it, by being in your spirits. Humble your intelligence, which is mine because I have infused it into you. And always think of what I am and what you are... Come. I will take you, if you give yourselves to Me."

***(And finally, Jesus recognizes the significance of Mary - in the mission of John the Baptist. He says:)***

"The Baptist was jolted in his mother's womb, on receiving the wave of Grace emanating from Mary. He was left sanctified by this Grace - its emanation having been so powerful as to pass through the barriers of the flesh. The fruit of Zechariah and Elizabeth was being formed to become my evangelizer..."

Mary left behind Herself a wake of active holiness. And provided hearts did not reject Grace, those approached became the ones predestined to sanctity..."

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