

# Rekindle the Life Of Obedience

Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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Mama Mary is a beautiful model of the virtue of obedience. We pray to her, "Ave Maria." "Ave" is a greeting that comes from "salve" which means "Hail." That is why we call her "Hail Mary, full of grace..." From Mary, we learned that we are called to glorify God with our lives by being obedient servants. In our Christian understanding, obedience means to surrender our will to God. Indeed, this submissiveness comes easily when we truly love and trust God, as Mama Mary did.

**1. "AVE" stands for the three characteristics of an obedient disciple and of Mama Mary: *Accipere* (to accept); *Vacare* (to empty oneself); *Eligere* (to choose).**

## **1.1 *Accipere*. Maria accepted.**

When she received the Word of God, her acceptance was unconditional; she surrendered her life even at a great sacrifice for herself and her family. Her love of God was above the love of family.

- a) How do we see our freedom? Freedom is never absolute. Freedom is relative to the giver of freedom who is God and to the truth. We are truly free if we follow the truth. Our hearts will be at peace if we know we are living according to what is right.
- b) Obedience is not blind. Mary asked to understand, but she still surrendered. Likewise, our faith will also seek the truth and understanding. That is why God revealed Himself through Jesus.
- c) God is the guarantor and source of freedom. He promised, "I will be with you until the end of time." If we obey, we will never go wrong.

## **1.2 *Vacare*: "I empty myself for you, Lord."**

This was Mary's obedience. She made herself available. She offered her motherhood, empty of arrogance or pride.

- a) When we find it difficult to obey, we are full of ourselves and our ego. Conversely, if we are empty, we surrender to God's will. Let us put aside our talents and expertise, as this came

from God. Rather, offer these to the service of God. We will find it easy to obey if we are empty of pride and arrogance.

## **1.3. *Eligere*. Mary has been chosen.**

She continued to choose God every day. When she gave the big "yes," it facilitated the smaller "yes's."

- a) There is constancy when we say "yes" every day. Each time we come here to listen to God's teaching, it is a constant renewal of our "yes."
- b) While still young, teach children obedience and proper decorum during mass. They will imbibe this virtue and will keep it as they grow up.
- c) Obedience requires an act of humility. Practice obedience to God again and again.

## **2. "AVE" stands for other qualities of obedience**

**2.1 *Audire* (to hear).** The first act of obedience is not compliance, but learning how to listen. The listening part is important because this qualifies what kind of obedience we will give. At the foot of the Cross, Jesus said "...John this is your Mother." From that moment, John took Mary into his abode. Let us listen to the Lord and love Him according to how He wants, instead of according to our wishes.

**2.2 *Voluntare* (willful).** We were given the freedom to choose the Lord. When we offer tithes, we choose to set aside 10% willingly.

**2.3 *Exercere* (practice).** Obedience is a lived reality and is concretized by practicing a moral life. Every day is an opportunity to exercise love and obedience. Jesus concretized His love for us by sacrificing Himself.

## **Conclusion:**

Mary showed obedience and sacrifice. Her life was not just inspiring but worthy of emulation. Like Mary, let us rekindle our obedience to the Lord and live according to His will.

## **Reflection:**

What would you say when you encounter St. Peter? How have you concretized your obedience to the Lord?

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