

The Faith of Our Fathers

Epiphany means “The manifestation or revealing of Christ as God.” The newborn child’s birth was not to remain secret, but was to be revealed. Otherwise His coming would have been of no use. This is why the Gospels during this season tell how Christ manifested Himself as Lord of all. It is the same in today’s Gospel. It tells of how the Lord Jesus shows that He is not an ordinary, but an extraordinary Child. First, He teaches the teachers. Then, He tell His mother, “I am your son; but more than that, I am the Son of My Father in heaven.” And so, with this Gospel, Our Lord Jesus makes it known to Mary and Joseph, and to us, that He is not only true man but also true God. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

The Evangelist is speaking about your Maker when he says: He was subject to them; that is, Jesus was without doubt subject to Mary and to Joseph. Be ashamed, vain ashes that you are. God humbles Himself and do you exalt yourself? God becomes subject to men, and will you, eager to lord it over men, place yourself above your Maker? O that God would, when I think such thoughts, reprove and answer me as He did His apostle: Get behind me, Satan: because you favor not the things that are of God. For when I desire to be foremost among men, then I seek to push ahead of God. If you disdain, O man, to follow the example of a Man, perhaps you can humble yourself to at least imitate your Maker. If you cannot follow Him wherever He goes, at least follow in that He has come down to you. (St Bernard of Clairvaux) ❧❧❧

Today’s Gospel presents an example of the holy cross, showing us through what experiences those have to pass who are Christians, and how they ought to bear their sorrow. For he who desires to be a Christian must expect to help bear the cross. For Our Lord God can take from us our joy and comfort and cause us the greatest sorrow with the very things that are our greatest joy. On the other hand, He can also give us the greatest delight in the things that terrify us the

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