

## **Rejoice when you are insulted**

Friends in Christ,

Today we see this beautiful miracle of Jesus,  
raising the little girl back from the dead,  
and this miracle points us to what he will do for all of us one day: raise us up from  
the dead.

As Our Lord enters this room - the parents having brought him there -  
Jesus says, 'she is not dead, but asleep.'

And it tells us that the crowd who had followed,  
'ridiculed him.' In another translation it says 'they laughed him to scorn.'

To me this is a remarkable thing.

To act this way, with contempt, toward the Son of God.

Our Lord will of course experience this at Calvary as well,  
the crowd mocking him and ridiculing him.

The great Father Scupoli, in his book *Spiritual Combat* -  
says that if you wish to reach the very perfection of the virtue of patience, if you  
wish to be great,

then when you receive an insult from someone or are put down or humiliated, you  
should not only bear it,

but you should welcome it, and love the person who ridiculed you.

The saints tell us that this a great way to be like Christ: willingly accepting insults.

Again, Fr Scupoli: if you wish to be dear to God,  
then love to be despised by others, rejoice in shame,  
choose the lowest place, the more undesirable chores;  
in this way we crush that spirit of pride that is in us.

'Careful!', he says.

We must not have that 'poor me' martyr complex,  
in which we secretly think that we are superior, this is pride.

St. Teresa said, that when she is falsely accused or wrongly put down, for  
something she did not do,  
she says nothing at all and gladly accepts the rebuke,

because as she says, 'I surely deserve it for the many other bad things I have in my life.

This is the highest form of the spiritual life,  
to suffer contempt and false judgment for Christ.  
It is a spiritual sacrifice to God.

Our Blessed Lord came to only do good, but as we are told:

'They ridiculed him.'

Yet he remained full of peace with a desire to heal even those against him.

St. Peter says;

'Be subject to your masters, even those who are harsh.

This is a grace, to suffer unjustly.

Unto this you are called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you may follow in his steps.