

AUGUST 21, 2017

Welcome to the last show in our LOVE the Word™ series. I hope you have enjoyed this as much as I have. We have spent quite a bit of time learning how to LOVE the Word™ like Mary loves the Word. Today what I'd like to do is recap all that we've talked about so far, but also elaborate with some different illustrations and different circumstances in my own life to help you identify where the Holy Spirit is speaking through your lectionary and Mass readings. We are going to talk about how to hear Him specifically through the lectionary and the Mass today. We are going to go through the LOVE the Word™ series and I'm going to give you a heads up on the newest series in the works: "Healing the Father Wound". I promised you that we would do that series, and it's going to be the next one. It's kind of a neat story that I am going to share with you today in the show.

I want to thank you for being with me. I want to thank my newest Friends of the Show: Erin, Sandi, and Tayana. Thank you so much for being Friends of the Bible Study Evangelista show. As you know, all of your support goes toward the technology that is required to keep this kind of thing going. Maybe in another show I'll share that in a little more detail. I just want to thank you and give you a shout out here on the show. If you are monthly supporter of the Bible Study Evangelista show, your bracelets are coming, I promise. I've had to wait on a new order. As soon as I can get those in the mail I will do that. Thank you for being a supporter and a provider, even, of the evangelism that I attempt to provide.

Some of you are first-time listeners. Some of you have just signed up for the "Healing the Father Wound" series which will begin on September 18. If that is the case you may have absolutely no idea what LOVE the Word™ is. As I said, we are in the last show of LOVE the Word™. It is a Bible Study method. It is based on the long-standing tradition of the Catholic Church, which was brand new to me -- as a convert I had no idea that Catholics even read the Bible. What's interesting is that it is a long-standing tradition of the church to do Lectio Divina, which is Latin for holy reading. It is actually Lectio Divina, the 4 steps of Lectio Divina in the traditional ways they have been set forth, but without the Latin. Instead of using the Latin words Lectio, Meditatio, Oratio, and Contemplatio - which are hard to say much less try to keep in mind and trying to do the steps - we use the word LOVE. It's a nice little handle on which to handle your study and reading steps. L is Listen, O is Observe, V is Verbalize - and we also looked at Verbalize under that V because you can either Verbalize in prayer or you may be artistic so you express your emotions and your fears and all of that stuff to God visually. So we talked about Verbalize or Visualize, but either we are talking about prayer - and E is Entrust. Those are the 4 steps of Lectio Divina but without the Latin. They're much easier to remember. We're listening, observing, verbalizing, and entrusting as we read the Word of God. We do that because we are listening for God's word to us specifically. When we use the lectionary or the mass we're actually hearing the Word that God is speaking to the entire church all over the face of the earth at the same time, but specifically and very specifically here in the United States where we all know we are reading the same readings at the same time because they are all in English.

When you are using the lectionary or you're getting the scriptures out of the mass readings then we are all hearing from the Holy Spirit at the same time, which is such a thrill. I remember when I came into the church for full communion and the first time I picked up a Magnificat. My godfather, as I have

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shared many times before, always kept me in books. If I suggested that I had an interest in something he would send me 5 or 10 books on that subject. I got the point that he was so generous about it and so good about it that I just quit telling him because I felt so bad that he was sending me all of these books. One of the things that he and his wife, my godmother, always did for me before I came into the church and as they were leading me through RCIA, they kept me in the little magazine called *Magnificat*. It has all of the morning and evening prayers and the mass readings for the day in it. Even that early when I was first confronted with the fact that the whole American church was reading the same readings at the same time, and not just here but all over -- which is a whole different issue - we're all reading the same readings. When I realized that God was speaking directly and specifically to me individually through the same readings that He was speaking to the whole church at the same time, I was absolutely floored that He can do that. I don't know about you. I hope you have really sensed that as we have gone through the LOVE the Word™ method. That's what all the shows are.

This is the last show in the series and I'm going to compile them all of one page and I'm going to make all of those shows a workshop. What I'd like for you to do is teach your children, teach your RCIA classes, teach your PRE - Parish Religious Education - or Sunday School, or whatever classes you teach, whether you teach kids or adults or whatever. This method is so much easier than trying to explain *Lectio Divina*, because when people sit down and they try to practice it they can't remember the steps. It's a silly thing to get hung up on, so I am trying to make it much easier for us by using the word LOVE. I didn't just imagine it out of thin air. It was actually Pope Francis that started the ball rolling for me, but that's neither here nor there. I'll get to that in a moment. I'd like to just re-emphasize, because it's so important and the whole reason I've done all of this LOVE the Word™, is because the "one table of the Lord", the Catechism says, "is both the Eucharist and the Scriptures. In CCC 103-104 the Catechism says "The Church has always venerated the Scriptures as She venerates the Lord's body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the bread of life taken from the one table of God's Word and Christ's Body. In Sacred Scripture the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for She welcomes it not as a human word but as what it really is: The Word of God. In the Sacred books the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet His children and talks with them." I love that because that's a nice little synopsis about what the Church teaches us about the Scriptures.

One of the things that is strongly emphasized is that the word of God comes to full life within the liturgy of the Church, specifically that means the Mass. The Mass readings are very, very important. That's why I always say if you cannot do all of the lectionary or all of the daily Office, which is the full fixed hour prayer schedule that our holy orders - nuns, monks, priests, consecrated religious, the priesthood - all pray the hours of the Divine Office every single day. That's on every third hour: 9, 12, 3, and 6. Whether it is morning or night they are constantly praying that Office. It's called an office of prayers. Since we can't do that as most of us are out in the world and we have families, we have jobs outside the home, maybe we have a job outside the home and a family so we're doing double duty. Wherever we are serving the Church is adamant that we must be in the Scriptures because it's part of the one table. If we can't do the whole Office we need to just do the Mass readings, especially the Gospel. Even if you can't manage the entire Mass readings for the day you can do the Gospel. It only takes 5 minutes. I have posted on my Facebook page, Sonja Corbitt, I have pinned to the very top of the page a list of resources that you can get those either online or phone app or magazine. *Magnificat*, which I am going to read from here in just a moment, is one of those resources that I listed. There should be no excuse. We should all be able to be in the Scriptures on a daily basis. That is why I am trying very hard to make this whole process of *Lectio Divina* as easy as possible.

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We know, then, in order to be well nourished in the Scriptures and in the Spiritual life of the Church and in the spiritual life with God we must be in the Scriptures. I am so proud of you for hanging in with me, especially those of you who got the journal and who have been practicing it. I owe Karen a freebie because I promised when I used your pictures I would send you a freebie. I have one for you, Karen. Also there are several others that I am going to continue to use along the way. If yours didn't get used and you posted one or offered one, just hang tight because I'll use it somewhere. I want to thank you also for participating. I love seeing your picture and journal pages. I'd also like to maybe start a daily LOVE the Word™ takeaway thread on the Facebook page so you can share every day if you got something specific out of your readings. I'll be sharing mine as well. If you have a penchant for helping me with that you can message me on Facebook and I'll see if we can work together. I need some help with that. I don't think I can do it every day but I can walk you through the process and teach you how to do it. If you're interested message me and we'll see if we can get that done.

So, we're wrapping up our LOVE the Word™ series and we've been talking about why it's so important to be in the Scriptures on a daily basis. I had always been taught and believed that the Catholic Church disallowed people to read the Bible, but actually we can see in the Catechism that it is an official teaching of the Church that you must have the one table, which is both the Eucharist and the Scriptures. We talked a little bit about what the lectionary was. We talked about the Mass. I would suggest taking your LOVE the Word™ journal to Mass and using it to practice. As you're sitting in Mass then you're listening to the readings and you're listening specifically with this thought in mind: "Holy Spirit, what do you want to say to me?" That is so very important and that is why I included the instructions for the process in the LOVE the Word™ with Mary journal. I wanted you to be able to look back and practice it to the point where it becomes second nature for you. I go through all of the steps in the journal. We talk specifically about how we must invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us. He's always speaking. What that really does is not to ask Him to do something He's not already doing but it makes us prepared and attentive to hearing his voice. There is a sense in which we are asking Him to speak but what we are really doing is preparing to hear Him. He's always speaking. Whether you're in Mass or whether you're using your LOVE the Word™ process through the lectionary, maybe you get an online devotion, maybe you're non-Catholic and you do an online quiet time and you have something that you already study - maybe you do one Proverb a day - whatever it is that you do, whatever your practice is, maybe you're reading through "Ignite" my newest book with Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. I use my journal for all of it. I don't just use it for one thing. I use it at Mass, I use it for the lectionary, I use it when I'm studying. When something occurs to me as I'm reading as it did this week - and I'm going to share that with you in a moment - and I'm not sure what God means or if He's actually speaking or it just catches my attention and I think it's interesting, I write it down in my journal and I come back to it later. I don't know you want to use it. It's yours, you do it however you want to. I'm just trying to give you suggestions. What's important is to have a central location that you can record all of those things. God is speaking in all of those ways. Maybe you're doing your rosary. I can't remember the priest I keep quoting on this, but there is a priest who said the rosary is the Bible on a string, and it is.

I was meditating on the "Healing the Father Wound" study and how to do it and in what order to offer the specific shows and the order in which to cover the topics and all of that. I was just mulling it all over and something occurred to me while I was doing my rosary that I had never thought of before, and I thought "WOW." It has really changed the way I see Our Lady and it has given me a deeper respect for all that she went through. I say that to say that whether you use your journal with the lectionary, which the Mass reading, with your rosary, with your meditations possibly in Magnificat or Word Among Us or Blessed Is She or whatever, I pray that even if you don't use my LOVE the Word™ Mary journal

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that you use something to get your thoughts down and to get those verses that God has given you down on paper so that you have a recording of them. That is so important because when you go back and you read a month's worth of your thoughts and your verses, what you are going to see is that God has been speaking in a trajectory. It will help you to discern His voice in long-term ways. That's why I put the journal together with the LOVE the Word™ method. I want you to be able to have something centrally located that you can write down the verses that you are getting as you begin to practice. I just want to say how proud I am of you. So many of you have been sharing what you've been getting and I'm just so proud of you. It thrills me more than you can ever know to know that some of you have begun this process for the first time. If you are still not doing it on a daily basis please don't beat yourself up over it. Just stay with it. Stay with it and do your Gospel readings and it will come and become a habit.

We talked about the L in the method being to Listen. I mentioned in one of the previous shows, and I mentioned it today too, that I got the LOVE the Word™ method from Pope Francis. I'm going to read you this quote one more time. In an address in St. Peter's Square Pope Francis compared our ability to hear the Word and the voice of God with Our Lady, especially the Annunciation and the Visitation with her kinswoman Elizabeth. Here is the quote. This is what he said in his homily. "What gave rise to Mary's act of going to visit her relative Elizabeth? A word of God, a word of God's angel. 'Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son'. Mary knew how to listen to God. But be careful, it was not merely hearing, a superficial word, but it was listening - which consists of attention, acceptance, and availability to God." We talked about that specifically in the L for Listen: attentiveness, acceptance, and availability. "It was not in the distracted way with which we sometimes face the Lord or others. We hear their words but we do not really listen. Mary is attentive to God. She listens to God." We do that too with the Scriptures. We might sit down and read it - we might read the whole Bible - but we haven't really heard God's voice to us specifically. That's part of why the method is so helpful. We sit down and we want to hear God speak to us.

However, Pope Francis also says, "Mary also listens to the events. That is, she interprets the events of her life. She is attentive to reality itself and does not stop on the surface but goes to the depths to grasp its meaning. Elizabeth her kinswoman, who was already elderly, was expecting a child. This is the event. But Mary is attentive to the meaning. She can understand it. With God nothing will be impossible." That is the O in LOVE the Word™ -- Observe. She is interpreting the events of her life. She is not stopping on the surface of the Word. She goes into the circumstances that are surrounding her and she knows how to interpret the Word of God through that lens. We talked about that in O. Then he goes on to say, "This is also true in our life: Listening to God who speaks to us and listening to daily reality; paying attention to people and events, because the Lord is at the door of our life and knocks in many ways. He puts signs on our path. He gives us the ability to see them. Mary is the mother of listening, of attentive listening to God, and of equally attentive listening to the events of life."

That is why I modeled the LOVE the Word™ method on her and the Annunciation. She knew how to Listen to the Word but not just to hear it - or to read it, in our case - but to see it through the lens of the things that were happening in her life.

One of the things I wanted to share with you is that this week I went to God and said "I don't know. Should I do this "Healing the Father Wound" next? I'm not sure. Maybe I should do something else." I wanted to take a break too because this is the time in our family and we begin back to school, and we have vacation now. I was just trying to figure out what we do next. I had mentioned that we might do

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“Healing the Father Wound” but I wasn’t sure. That’s a really involved and intensive kind of study and a lot of people are probably not ready for it. Maybe you’re not. Maybe you don’t have a father wound. Maybe you have a mother wound. We’re going to talk about both but I call it “Healing the Father Wound” because that’s where I come from. I had mentioned that I might do it but I wasn’t sure. So, I sit down to my daily readings and in the prayers for the evenings it says, “Thus says the Lord, speak to them this word: Let my eyes stream with tears day and night without rest over the great destruction which overwhelms the virgin daughter of my people, over her incurable wound. Why is my pain continuous, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?” Dear One, it couldn’t have been more clear. It was like a blinking road sign: “Do Healing the Father Wound!” He’s talking about this great destruction that overwhelms us, and don’t we know it? Our behavior suffers, our relationships suffer, we self-medicate. We get into all of these awful sin ruts and we don’t know where they come from. So often they come from these wounds. God says, “Let my eyes stream with tears day and night without rest over the great destruction which overwhelms the virgin daughter of my people.” That’s us. We are the people of God. After Mary, who is the sign of the Church, we are the virgin daughter of God’s people. He says we have an incurable wound. It’s incurable to us, but praise and thanks be to God that is it not incurable for Him. I knew for sure that we needed to do “Healing the Father Wound” next. In my daily readings, Dear One! This is my MO. I’m not just telling you to do something I think is a quaint little practice. It is something that I practice on a daily basis and I hear God speak through it. I know that He will speak to you. The Bible is full of the promises and assurances. If you haven’t been able to keep up the habit, continue in it, please. I beg you. God will be able to heal you.

I don’t want to leave out the fact that you’re listening to the Word of God by listening to this show. I’m offering you series on the Word of God. You can do your 5 minutes a day and then you can also get a big dose for an hour once a week at your convenience. I’m here to serve you, Dear One. That’s why I do it.

For those of you who can’t get through the show without thinking I have a plan, here’s the plan so far: I wanted to cover Lectio without the Latin. We’ve looked at Listen. We’ve looked at the important of being in the Word of God on a regular basis and I shared with you one of the ways in which God has spoken to me just this week in my own LOVE the Word™ practice. I’d like to actually do that again. I want to show you one of the ways that God speaks. He is so faithful. He never fails to speak to us in the events and the circumstances of our life if we’ll just pay attention. I have been in this total turmoil for the last month or so. I told you that I’m writing a new project. And I am; in fact, the proposed deadline is September 15th, which is why we are not going to start the series until the 18th. In any writing project that you hope to publish there is a contract involved. There was a time when it was a brand new sort of contract negotiation for me. I had never seen this sort of intense contract before. It was a bigger company with a bigger audience and it had a whole lot of clout. I had to be very, very careful with this contract. A lot of bigger companies offer you what’s called a boiler plate contract, and that just means the kind they stamp out and send to everybody. It’s a very standard sort of contract, and boilerplate contracts always go for the grab. They always ask for all of the possible rights they can get. It wasn’t a contract that I had ever seen before. I was going over it and looking through it and it was very stressful. I’m terrified because I don’t know legalese and I don’t have an attorney to do this for me, I don’t have an agent or anything like that. I got really, really anxious. I was thrilled to have been offered the contract but I was also very anxious. I go to God and I’m like, “I don’t know what to do. Is this a sign that you want me to pull back and possibly not go forward this project or this particular publisher? What do you want me to do?” The readings at the time, on a daily basis, started being on the story of the children of Israel in the Exodus. Moses was supposed to be leading the children out of Egypt and yet he came up against one problem after another. God even

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told him that was going to happen. He said “You’re going to go to Pharaoh and demand that he let you leave Egypt to worship me and he’s going to tell you no. You’re going to do all of these signs and wonders and he’s still going to tell you no.” And Moses got very frustrated. He sort of said something that Teresa of Avila is purported to have said as well, “If is this how you treat your friends it’s no wonder you have so few.” Moses said something similar, “If you’re going to do this to me, just kill me now. I don’t even want to go through all this.” I have to say I didn’t do that because I could tell from the readings that God was trying to prepare me as well for sort of a long, drawn out process. It wasn’t going to happen quickly the way other contracts had before and I was just going to have to be patient and go slowly. I began to assemble some tools. I gathered around as many knowledgeable people in legal terms and contracts and publishing. I got some advice from some other people in the sort of ministry that I do. It’s a long and drawn out process. My point here is that in the O for Observe, as I was observing my circumstances and my relationship through the lens of the daily readings and using the LOVE the Word™ method, what I discovered is that God was using those readings to coach me through the entire contract process! I was almost stunned. This was very important to me but also important to my ministry. Not in a way that it was all about me, but I was trying to be very careful because I was trying to be sure that you were able to get the information that I wanted to present. And I was afraid. Am I going with the right publisher? Am I going with the right contract? Am I doing the right study? Am I doing the right project? Am I writing the right things? It was all of these questions and insecurities. On top of that, Dear One, and I’ll talk about it in the next series on “Healing the Father Wound”, this contract was really tweaking my father wound. All of this upheaval was going on at once but what was shocking to me was that, for instance, one of the readings said something to the effect of “Egypt and Pharaoh dealt shrewdly with God’s people.” And I thought “Wow Lord! That you can use the same readings that you’re using for the whole church all over the country and world to say something very specific to me, specific to my circumstances and my relationships and my habits!” Here I am listening to the Word of God, and I’m reading the readings, and I’m observing the landscape of my circumstances specific to this contract negotiation and God is using the daily readings to tell me how to get through each of those steps. I couldn’t believe it. I still can’t believe it looking back on it. It was amazing.

I wanted to give you a fresh contemporary example for how God continues to use this LOVE the Word™ method in my life. I’m not sharing something with you that is an old and tired kind of thing that I have set aside. That’s my point. I use it. The L was Listen and here I was listening to the Word of God through the readings and the Mass and also in the things that I was studying. As I said, I had mentioned earlier that I came to the knowledge and awareness of something new as I was meditating on how to present “Healing the Father Wound”. That was specific to another reading and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. As I was doing those they sort of all came together in this exclamation point from God. He steered me in the direction of “Healing the Father Wound”. What is know is that this next series is for you. If you have a father or a mother wound, this is for you. As I was reading those readings I knew for sure not to get into a hurry on the contract. I knew that God was doing things little bits at a time. He even said, and that was in our readings recently, where Joshua looks into the Promised Land after Moses is dead. Joshua is going to lead the people into the Promised Land and he does this recap, a review, just before they head in. He points out to the people that God sent hornets into the land to clear out the people that were already there so that God’s people could move in without a constant battle. God was sort of clearing the way for them through the Angel of the Lord, He says in the readings. This is all coming back up in the readings and that is why I am sharing it with you, because it’s fresh all over again. His point was that the people didn’t even have to fight for some of the land. Some of it they did but a lot of it God did for them through, for instance, a plague of hornets that drove the people out of the land little bits at a time so that the people would not be overwhelmed by

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the amount of territory that God just dropped into their lap. I knew, then, from those readings that I needed not to get into a hurry, that I needed to seek counsel and get all of the information that I needed to be an informed negotiator. At some point God even led me to the knowledge that I can do this on my own if I want. That's a really long story but my point is that in observing the events of my life, as Pope Francis said Mary did, I was able to see that God was working and leading me through the entire process. He will do the very same thing for you. I am not special. The only difference in people who hear God speak through LOVE the Word™ and follow Mary in the process is that the people who do it, hear; the people who don't, don't. We forfeit the guidance and encouragement that God wants to give us on a daily basis when we're not in the Word. Stay with it, Dear One. That's all I'm saying.

Mary taught Jesus how to do the very same thing. In John 5:19-20 Jesus says He "only does what He sees the Father doing." Jesus understood how to carry out His own ministry based on what He heard and what He saw the Father doing. For instance, John the Baptist - Jesus told us in the Gospels that He understood that it was time to begin his public ministry because John the Baptist, who was his herald, was put to death. He (John the Baptist) said, "I must decrease and He must increase", talking about Christ. When Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been put to death, that is when He began His ministry. At the same time Mary goes to Him at the wedding at Cana, which we'll talk about a bit later.

We've covered Lectio without the Latin. We've covered the L for Listen and O for Observe. Now we're going to talk about V for Verbalize and E for Entrust. I'm going to stick with just the V for Verbalize. If you haven't heard the Visualize show you can go back and listen to that. Verbalize is nothing but prayer. All we are doing is praying back to God what we believe we have heard. What that has done is solidifies it in our hearts, and as we write it down we make a record of it so we can see the trajectory that God has been building over periods of time. That is important because God sometimes can't tell us all of everything in our 5 minutes, or even in an hour if we have an hour habit of prayer in the Scriptures. He can't tell us everything there is to say. For instance, this whole contract negotiation that I was sharing about went on through weeks and weeks. It wasn't something He could just tell me in one sitting. Oftentimes this is another reason to verbalize back to God what you think He was saying: I was getting mixed signals. On one hand I would hear "Things are great. You're doing fine. Dream big. Go into the Promised Land. You're going to be able to overtake it." Then on the very next reading on the very next day it would say "Egypt is going to oppose you. Pharaoh is evil", all this stuff. And I'm thinking "Which is it? Do I stop or do I go? Are they good or are they bad?" When you get those mixed signals - and this is something I haven't said before - it's really important to keep track of what you're hearing on a daily basis because the signals will sometimes conflict and you will get confused. Is it this or that? It's actually both. That's what I was coming to realize. Over a week's time I was able to look back and go, "Okay. It's not one thing or the other, it's both things. This is a good thing and I am supposed to proceed, but I have to be careful and I have to be aware that there are pitfalls here that could get me in big trouble down the road. I'm going to have to be slow and methodical and informed about how I move forward in this particular circumstance. It's a good thing. It's a gift from God. But I have to be careful." If you're not paying attention and observing your circumstances you may not catch that it's too things at once. You might get overwhelmed by the seemingly conflicting signals that you're getting from the Scriptures. This always happens. Don't beat yourself up if you think that you have made a mistake. I'm hearing from you that some of you think that you are being punished or being corrected for not doing it right because what you think you're hearing does not seem to be lining up or what you're hearing seems to conflict. What I'm saying to you now, since I haven't said it before: That is normal. It could actually be that both

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things are true at one time. For instance, if you have been longing for your family to come home to the Church God may promise you, or has promised you, that that will happen. But maybe you're also reading in the readings that it hasn't happened yet or there is a long time. Maybe you're being encouraged to wait. "Those who wait on the Lord will mount up on wings as of eagles", the Bible says. I don't know, I'm just giving you examples in which 2 things that seem to be opposites are actually true at the same time. If that's the case, what's important here in our Verbalize step is that you write it down. That's why I made you a journal, so that you can keep up with it. I gave you the whole process in the front of the journal so that you can keep up with what the steps are and what you are supposed to be looking for in each of those so that it becomes a habit and you don't have to turn back and try to consult each of the steps.

The LOVE the Word™ method and exercise is so simple. We have Listened to the Word and we've possibly heard conflicting statements. We've Observed our circumstances and we think that both of things may be true at the same time, and probably they are. We have Verbalized what we think God is saying, and we have written it all down. Remember that Anne Catherine Emmerich says that when Mary was praying for something specific, meaning the Messiah, God answered her through the Word with herself. She was the answer to her own prayer and she wouldn't have known it had she not had the habit of being attentive, available, and accepting to all that God said to her previously. Mary had a prayer discipline that included listening for God's Word. She knew what God wanted her to do and what He was doing with her based on what she heard in prayer from the angel. If you'll notice, when she went to the temple - which we see in the Joyful Mysteries - here is this joyful and wonderful Annunciation. She has shared it with Elizabeth, and that is what we call Mary's Song - The Magnificat - that's her verbalization. She sings this Magnificat to God. When she knows that Elizabeth is safe and she can tell Elizabeth the details of what has happened, she shares it with her because Elizabeth already knows it. She knows that Elizabeth is safe.

We may want to share what God has said to us with another person if we know that they are safe to do so with. Mary does that. She verbalizes back to God after pondering on her way to see Elizabeth in Judea. She is pondering all of this in her heart. When she gets to Elizabeth and realizes that Elizabeth already knows, the babe in her womb has leapt with joy because she knows something monumental has happened. Then Mary begins to share in this Magnificat to God, a praise to God, and she shares it with Elizabeth. We see then that Mary has a discipline of listening for the Word of God, and she also has a discipline of praying it back to him. She has pondered it and then verbalized it with Elizabeth, and it becomes a recording for all of Church history. We hear it and see it now because it's recorded in the Scriptures and it's in the liturgy of the Church. That's where the Church Fathers say the Word of God comes alive, in the liturgy of the Church. We know, then, what a monumental thing this has been for Mary but also for the whole Church: That the Word of God would actually come to life in her in a way that she is incarnate and she gives birth to it in the world. It is a saving Word. The Word of God is living and powerful, the Bible says, and He is a person not a book.

Throughout our discovery of what it means to LOVE the Word™ we talked about specific sins. In Psalm 4:4 we learned the little acronym STOP: Sin Not, Tell God, Offer the Right Sacrifices, and Put Your Trust in God. When God speaks to us and convicts us about particular sins, possibly we want to be careful to do that. S in STOP is Sin Not. T is Tell God. O is Offer the Right Sacrifices. P is Put Your Trust in God. Maybe God is telling us that we need to be more careful about a particular sin habit, and He will do that a lot through LOVE the Word™. He will invite us to come out of those sin habits. The children of Israel are a perfect example of that as well. The whole idea of drawing them out of Egypt was to rescue them from the bondage that they were experiencing there in Egypt. For us, our Egypt

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are those sin places that enslave us. He will talk to us about those through our LOVE the Word™ exercises.

After we have verbalized back to God like Mary all the things that we think we have heard; whether they conflict or not, whether God is answering our prayers or not, whatever those things are that God has shared with us through His word, we write them down. Then we Entrust them all back to God like Mary did. She doesn't put any conditions on what she expects God to do. That's why we talked about what faith is. Faith is simply trusting God and his goodness. We don't put a condition on what has to happen or how it has to happen or when it has to happen, any of those things. All we do is trust God to handle it. If God says we need to do something about it and take a certain step then we trust God with that step. We do what He says in obedience and we trust it all to Him. We ask, maybe, for what we want but then we leave the answer with Him. Maybe the answer is no, maybe it is wait, maybe it is yes. We are not going to know if we are not in the Scriptures on a daily basis. Just like Mary did, and she does the very same thing at the Wedding in Cana - she goes to the Word when she sees a problem. "They don't have any wine", she says. She goes to the Word - Christ, her Son, and she presents the problem to Him. She does it in a different order in this instance, which is why I like it as an illustration. We don't have to go through the LOVE the Word™ in the exact order, it's just a guideline. She sees the problem first and then goes to the Word of God and says, "They have no wine." And He says, "What's that got to do with me?" She says, "Everything!" and then she looks at the people around her and says "Do what he says." She puts no conditions on what is supposed to happen or what the Word is supposed to do or what the people are supposed to do. All she says is "Do what he says." That's all we do in Entrust. We leave it to Him.

Dear One, that's the process. That's what we want to do on a daily basis. As we are Loving the Word, God will speak to us about our own circumstances and our relationships and our sin habits. He oftentimes will use our prayers to teach us and show us what He wants us to do. After He has done that and we have written it down and verbalized it back to Him we Entrust the outcome to Him. That's all we can do. We can't put conditions on who, what, where, when, or how. Just leave it to Him, lay it at His feet, Entrust it to Him, and know that whatever we get is the best answer we can receive.

That's it for our LOVE the Word™ series. For the next several weeks I am going to finish writing this project, I'm going to go on vacation, and I'm going to start homeschooling with my youngest son. I will send you audio from different talks and radio interviews and other things. If you want to listen to them, fine. If not, that's fine too but please share the "Healing the Father Wound" video. I need to get the word out so that I can be obedient to the word that I heard in the readings this week about how God wants to cure this incurable wound, this father wound that we have, that overwhelms the virgin daughter of his people. Please share the videos and the posts about the new series. I will see you on the 18th with "Healing the Father Wound."