

## ***“A Sacred Meditation on the Name of Jesus”***

*O BLESSED JESUS*, be a Jesus to me; for Your holy name’s sake, have compassion on me! My life condemns me; but the name of Jesus will save me. For Your name’s sake, deal with me according to Your name; and since You are a true and great Savior, You will surely regard with mercy those who are real and great sinners. Have mercy upon me, O blessed Jesus, in the day of mercy, so as not to condemn me in the day of judgment. If You receive me within the bosom of Your compassion You will not on my account have less room; if You bestow upon me some crumbs of Your goodness You will not, on that account, be poorer.

*FOR ME* You are born (Isaiah ix. 6), for me You are circumcised, to me also You are Jesus. How sweet and delightful is the name of Jesus! For what is Jesus but Savior? And what real harm can come upon the saved? What beyond salvation can we either seek or expect? Receive me, O Lord Jesus, into the number of Your children, so that with them I may praise Your holy and saving name. If through my sin I have lost my original innocence, have I deprived You of Your mercy? If I have miserably destroyed and condemned myself, can’t You still compassionately save me?

*DO NOT REGARD* my sins, O Lord, so as to forget Your own mercy. Don’t weigh and measure my offences so that they out-weigh Your merit. Do not consider my evil so as to overlook Your own goodness. Don’t remember wrath against a criminal, but be mindful of Your mercy towards a miserable sinner. O Christ, You who have given me a desire for You, fulfill my longing desire? You who have shown me my unworthiness and just condemnation, do not conceal from me Your merit and the promise of eternal life. Before a heavenly tribunal my case must be tied, but it comforts me that in the heavenly court the name of Savior has been given to You; for that blessed name was brought from heaven by the angel (Luke ii. 21). O most merciful Jesus, to whom will You be a Jesus, if not to wretched sinners seeking grace and salvation?

*THOSE WHO TRUST* in their own righteousness and holiness seek salvation in themselves, but I find in me nothing worthy of eternal life, so I flee to You as my Savior. Save me, for I am condemned; have mercy upon me, for I am a sinner; justify me, for I am unrighteous; acquit me, for I am under accusation of sin. You, O Lord, are the Truth (John xiv. 6); Your name is holy and true; therefore let Your name be true in respect to me; be my Jesus and my Savior! Be my Jesus in the present life; be my Jesus in death; be my Jesus in the last judgment; be my Jesus in eternal life. And assuredly You will be, O blessed Jesus; because just as You are unchangeable in essence so will You be in mercy. Your name will not be changed, O Lord Jesus, on account of one miserable sinner like me. No, but You will be a Savior even to me, for You will not cast out any one who comes to You. You have given me the desire to come to You, and surely You will receive me when I come, for Your words are truth and life (John vi. 63).

*WHAT IF* the propagation of original sin in me condemns me, yet Thou You are my Jesus. What if my conception in sin condemns me, still You are my Jesus. What if my creation in sin and under the curse condemns me, nevertheless You are my Savior. What if my corrupted birth condemns me, yet You are my Salvation. What if the sins of my youth condemn me, still You are

my Jesus. What if the course of my whole life, defiled with most grievous sins, condemns me, yet You remain still my Jesus! What if the penalty of death to be inflicted upon me for my sins and various transgressions condemns me, yet You are still my Savior! What if the awful sentence of the last judgment rise against me, yet will I trust You, and fly to You as my Jesus, my Savior!

*I AM SINFUL*, cast off, condemned; but in Your holy name there is righteousness, election, salvation; but in Your name was I baptized; in Your name do I believe; in Your name will I die; in Your name will I rise again; and in Your blessed name will I appear at the judgment. In Your name every conceivable good is provided for my soul and stored up in reserve as a sacred treasury (1 Peter i. 4). Alas! how much of this good have I lost by my own distrust; and blessed Jesus, I fervently pray that You would graciously remove this distrust far from me, so that I, whom You so mercifully desire to save by Your precious merit and life-giving name, would not condemn myself through my own fault and unbelief. *Amen.*

John Gerhard, *Sacred Meditations.*