

## Homily for Sunday June. 10th

You might think that Jesus is being uncharacteristically rude to his mother. That is not what he is doing at all. Rather he is pointing to her as a model to imitate. "Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother." Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of Christ. That was her unique vocation. We rightly honour her as the mother of Our Lord.

In these words Jesus is pointing to her as the first of his disciples. She listened to the word of God when the Angel Gabriel told her of God's plan. She could not possibly have understood what saying "Yes" would involve for her, and for Joseph. But she accepts; "Be it done unto me according to thy word".

On another occasion Jesus makes a similar point. A woman in the crowd called out: "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that you have sucked."

He replies: "More Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it."

Again Mary is being praised as the first to hear God's Word and keep it."

We can see the contrast between Mary and Eve. In that story from Genesis we see the consequences of not accepting God's Word. Adam and Eve are in the Garden of Eden. They were told by God not to eat of the tree he pointed out to them. Led on by the serpent they disobey and the idyllic scene changes.

They discover that they are naked and begin to make excuses. Adam blames Eve. Eve in turn blames the serpent. Their disobedience has serious consequences. It introduces disharmony and division into creation.

As the story develops we see the corrosive effects of sin as men turn against each other and the harmony of creation breaks down.

Now in the Gospel Mary is the New Eve. By her obedience Christ comes into the world. By His obedience Christ, the New Adam reconciles us to God.

By his death on the Cross and his Rising from the dead he opens for us the way to Heaven. This is the New Creation.

Just as Eve was known as "The mother of all that exist", so Mary becomes the mother of the New Creation, the Mother of all God's Holy People. The Mother of all those redeemed by her Son, Our Lord.

The Gospel today challenges us to follow her example. It is easy for us to tell God what we want him to do for us. It is not so easy to be still and listen to what he wants of us. We need to echo the words of the boy Samuel in the Old Testament: "Speak Lord, Your servant is listening".

But all too often what we are saying is:

"Listen Lord, Your servant is speaking".

Holy Mother of God teach us to listen and obey as you did.