

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We continue to move through Advent. We remember the constant cry of “*Marana tha*, come Lord Jesus” (*marana tha* literally means “Come, our Lord”). He is coming! I again invite you to enter into prayer with me for that coming.

Jesus, Your cousin St. John the Baptist went before You crying out, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Matthew 3:2). John knew something that we too often forget: that You desire to be one with us. We also forget that sin is not just breaking of Your law, but *breaking Your Heart*. O Jesus! Your Heart loves us so much, and yet is so little loved! Jesus, help us to recognize how we need to repent from our sin so that we can show You all the love for which You thirst! Jesus, break our hearts from what breaks Yours. Jesus, help us to repent of the sin that separates us from You and Your love.

Jesus, too often in our world today, we try to live our own lives, in control of our little kingdoms. By doing this, we foster the illusion that we have really have control over the world and our lives, and we reject Your Kingdom. We believe the lie that we are really in control over what is good and evil, right and wrong in our lives. Jesus: *Break that illusion!* Do what is necessary to help us to see how we are to surrender our illusions of control, of our little kingdoms, so that we can enter into the incredible Kingdom You have prepared for each of us before the world began. Jesus, break the tyranny of relativism so that we can see clearly that You are the moderator of what is good and evil, right and wrong. Jesus, show us that by living in *Your* morality, we become fully human! *Marana tha*, come, Lord Jesus, and give us the grace to repent of our control.

Jesus, too often we believe the lie that Satan tells us – that he told Adam and Eve in the Garden – that You are against us, that You will NOT fulfill the deepest desires of our souls. Because of this lie, Jesus, we end up trying to fill our emptiness with things that cannot bear the weight. O Jesus! How we have fallen from You by thinking that drugs or alcohol or food or sex or relationships or entertainment or social media or anything else in this world will fill the void that only You can fill. Jesus, speak the truth to us, the truth that You so long, so desire to satisfy the infinite longing within our hearts. Give us the courage to repent of our misplaced, disordered desires, and *re-order them back to Your love!* *Marana tha*, come, Lord Jesus, and give us the grace to repent of our disordered desires.

Jesus, to repent – to change our actions, our decisions, our way of thinking, to surrender our desires to You – is so hard! You know that it is one of the most difficult things we can do, since we have been saturated by the lie that we need to seek after “number one”. Give us the strength and courage to overcome our resistance to Your love, so that we may surrender ourselves to You, and find the joy, the love, the fulfillment for which we were made.

*Marana tha*, come Lord Jesus.