

# Bonaventura - 1221-1274

## STUDY QUESTIONS



Scripture: John 20:22

SERMON ON LOW SUNDAY

1. **"Receive the Holy Spirit"** (John 20:22) is presented as an incredible invitation and gift.

- How does Bonaventure connect the Holy Spirit to spiritual anointing, and what does he say about the "oil of grace"?
- How can we, in our daily lives, "shut the doors of our senses" to allow this grace to multiply within our souls?

2. **The Cross as Discipline:**

Bonaventura highlights four motivations to embrace the Cross: Jesus' example, God's help, spiritual anointing, and eternal reward.

- Which of these motivations resonates most with you personally, and why?
- How can we "hang incessantly" on the Cross in our modern lives, as Bonaventure urges?

3. **Purity of Heart in Communion:**

Bonaventura compares receiving Jesus' Body to Joseph wrapping Him in clean linen. He emphasizes purity of heart, likening it to the whiteness of linen or milk.

- What practices can help us maintain a pure heart and resist the "flies of impure thought"?
- Why is it significant that purity "glorifies the angels and honors God"?

4. **The Reward of Eternal Life:**

Bonaventura uses the image of the *denarius* (eternal reward) and the *vineyard* (penitential labor).

- How do Samson's victory over the lion and the discovery of honey illustrate the struggle and reward of spiritual labor?

- Where do you see opportunities to “fight the lion” and find God’s sweetness in your spiritual journey?

#### 5. **Borrowing Virtues from Saints:**

Bonaventure speaks of borrowing “vessels” of virtues from the saints to fill with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

- Which saint or biblical figure inspires you most, and what “vessels” (virtues or examples) can you borrow from them?
- How can imitating their examples deepen your spiritual life and draw you closer to God?

#### Notes

#### **Feedback**

If you develop any questions you feel would better serve group discussion, let us know and we would love to consider updating & including them.

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