

And if, despite my own efforts and Thy grace, O Divine Master, I have not yet the courage to inflict such punishment on myself, do take the whip in Thy own hand, and make me like to Thee ! Should not God's adopted children share the same fate as His only Son ? Still more, if the Father allowed Thee, His cherished Son, to be so treated, with how much more reason His adopted sons ? Thou teachest us by the pen of Saint Paul : "For whom the Lord loveth, He chastiseth, and He scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." Saint Gregory the Great says to us : "Thy scourges, O God, are the marks of Thy love." And again, Saint Bernard says : "The soldier feels not his bruises when he sees his captain covered with wounds."

As for the rest, I know, and it is for me a great encouragement, that the hand which strikes me now will one day crown me, not with the crown of thorns— that Thou has reserved for Thyself. O Jesus !—but with a crown of glory acquired for me by Thy sufferings.

RESOLUTION. Unite hourly with Mary, and with Jesus actually renewing in a mystical manner His immolation on the Cross upon some altar on earth. Communicate spiritually in the Divine Victim. Resolve to impose on your senses the privation of any enjoyment, even the most legitimate, that might encourage softness and delicacy.

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"If in our prayers we do nothing else than sit down beside Our Lord, feeling that He knows and loves us, even though we do not say a word and are as dry as a stick, our prayers are profitable, and we shall draw from them a real good. It is as if, when dispirited, dry and tired, we were to sit down by some one who loves and understands us without saying a word, and were to rise up refreshed by the intercommunion between the two souls."