

The Woman: Take-Home 4

Session 4: The Queen Mother

What We Found

In the kingdom of Judah the most honored woman of the royal court was characteristically not the king's wife but his mother, the gebirah. Bathsheba bows before her husband David (1 Kings 1:16), but her son Solomon rises, bows to her, and seats her on a throne at his right hand (1 Kings 2:19). Psalm 45:9 shows a queen standing at the king's right hand; there she is the royal bride, though the position itself is the very one Solomon gives his mother in 1 Kings 2:19, and the Church has long applied this psalm to Mary; Jeremiah addresses 'the king and the queen mother' together (Jeremiah 13:18); the king goes into exile with his mother beside him (2 Kings 24:12).

Gabriel announces that Jesus receives 'the throne of his father David' and a kingdom without end (Luke 1:32–33). When Elizabeth greets Mary as 'the mother of my Lord' (Luke 1:43), her words echo the royal court language of the Old Testament, where the mother of 'my lord the king' was honored (cf. 1 Kings 1:11–31): she is, in effect, greeting the mother of her King.

Mary's queenship is entirely derived from her Son's kingship, and it never replaces direct access to him: we still 'draw near to the throne of grace with confidence' (Hebrews 4:16). The queen mother is the King's generosity, not his gatekeeper.

Voices of the Church

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: VEN. POPE PIUS XII

Pius XII teaches, in substance, that Mary is rightly hailed as Queen because she is the mother of the King whose kingdom has no end, her queenship wholly derived from and subordinate to her Son's royal dignity.

Ad Caeli Reginam (1954), summary

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: THE CHURCH'S ANCIENT ANTIPHONS

For roughly a millennium the Church has ended her day singing to Mary as queen: *Salve Regina*, *Hail, holy Queen*, *Mother of mercy*; and in Eastertide, *Regina Caeli*.

Salve Regina; Regina Caeli

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

St. Alphonsus teaches, in substance, that Mary's queenship is a queenship of mercy: her office is to receive petitions and carry them to the throne of her Son.

The Glories of Mary (summary)

Live It This Week

- Pray the *Salve Regina* slowly once a day this week.
- Do one deliberate, visible act of honor toward your mother or father, living or deceased.
- Bring one intention each day to Christ the King through his mother's hands.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir."

Psalm 45:9 (RSV2CE)

Before next session: Read Luke 1:26–38 again, slowly, twice.

Catechism references: CCC 966 (Mary exalted as Queen over all things); CCC 559 (Jesus acclaimed as the Davidic King).