

CHAPTER FOUR

CHRISTUS VIVIT- "A GREAT MESSAGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE"

Summary *authored by Andrea Tornielli*

To all young people the Pope announces three great truths. A "God who is love". **"God loves you, never doubt this"** (112). You can *"find security in the embrace of your heavenly Father"* (113). Pope Francis affirms that the memory of the Father *"is not a 'hard disk' that 'saves' and 'archives' all our data. His memory is a heart filled with tender compassion, one that finds joy in 'deleting' from us every trace of evil... Because he loves you. Try to keep still for a moment and let yourself feel his love"* (115). His love is one that *"has to do more with raising up than knocking down, with reconciling than forbidding, with offering new changes than condemning, with the future than the past"* (116).

The second truth is that **"Christ saves you"**. Never forget that *"He forgives us seventy times seven. Time and time again, He bears us on his shoulders"* (119). Jesus loves us and saves us because *"only what is loved can be saved. Only what is embraced can be transformed. The Lord's love is greater than all our problems, frailties and flaws"* (120). And *"His forgiveness and salvation are not something we can buy, or that we have to acquire by our own works or efforts. He forgives us and sets us free without cost"* (121).

The third truth is that **"He is alive!"**. *"We need to keep reminding ourselves of this...because we can risk seeing Jesus Christ simply as a fine model from the distant past, as a memory, as someone who saved us two thousand years ago. But that would be of no use to us: it would leave us unchanged, it would not set us free"* (124). If He lives, *"there can be no doubt that goodness will have the upper hand in your life... then we can stop complaining and look to the future, for with him this is always possible"* (127).

In these truths, the Father appears and Jesus appears. And where they are, there is also the Holy Spirit. *"Invoke the Holy Spirit each day... You have nothing to lose, and He can change your life, fill it with light and lead it along a better path. He takes nothing away from you, but instead helps you to find all that you need, and in the best possible way"* (131).

Christina's Favourite Paragraph

submitted by Christina Mines



"If in your heart you can learn to appreciate the beauty of this message, if you are willing to encounter the Lord, if you are willing to let him love you and save you, if you can make friends with him and start to talk to him, the living Christ, about the realities of your life, then you will have a profound experience capable of sustaining your entire Christian life. You will also be able to share that experience with other young people. For "being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction"." -Christus Vivit Paragraph 129

Thoughts for your own reflection

submitted by Christina Mines

Take a moment to reflect on your own encounter of a person or experience which shaped your identity in Christ. What were the characteristics of that person/experience that drew you closer to the Risen Lord?

How has the Lord called you to be such a person for others? What gifts is he challenging you to use for the accompaniment of young people?

Paragraph 130 of Chapter 4 is a beautiful reflection on the necessity of the Holy Spirit. Where is the Holy Spirit pushing for growth in your experience of youth ministry?