

## Deference According to Scripture

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Lent is a time of preparation.... a time for reflection, and pondering, and examination. Perhaps, a time to reorganize and to reprioritize. Maybe, a time for self-evaluation and then, even for transformation. Lent can be a time for constructive self-criticism as we strive to strengthen our character toward Christ-likeness. It can be a time to reassess our direction through *this* life and realign our spiritual journey, mindful of the *afterlife*. Lent should be a time to prepare our hearts, willingly and with gratefulness, to receive the gift of salvation from sin through the sacrifice of Jesus on Good Friday. It should be a time to be in awe of the promise of eternal life given so benevolently to us by God, the Father, through the resurrection of His Son on Easter Day.

As we ready ourselves for the joy of Easter, Lent is also the best time for practicing the virtue of deference by gratefully acknowledging and yielding to the wisdom and love of God, the Holy Father. Only He is all-knowing. He is omniscient. Defer to his sagacity! Only He is all-powerful...almighty. He is omnipotent. Defer to His strength! Only He exists everywhere at once, completely availing Himself to us if we seek Him. He is omnipresent. Defer to His proximity!

Jesus used deference, in perhaps the greatest modeling of this virtue ever, when He displayed extraordinary trust while in complete submission as he hung in agony on the cross and breathed his last. Even while enduring torturous pain, it was just then that Jesus had the opportunity to teach us by ultimate example, how to gracefully defer to the wisdom and judgment of the Father. In Christ's human frailty and seemingly lack-of-full-knowing, Jesus showed deference to God, confident that He would be tenderly taken into the loving arms of His Father in Heaven. What a powerful lesson! What a magnificent teacher!

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"  
– which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Matthew 27:46

Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."  
When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Luke 23:46

In His infinite wisdom, God the Father demonstrates His extravagant love for us by way of the Holy Spirit guiding us to know the ultimate saving grace in the Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Jesus, Himself humbly and gracefully deferred to the Father. Who better then to give our deference to?