

Question: Luisa says that when Mary and Joseph found the child Jesus in the Temple, she “understood the meaning of such a response and adored it in the Divine Will”, but Luke’s Gospel says that “they did not understand what he said to them”. Please explain this for me.

Answer: In Meditation 5 of her work entitled, *The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will*, Luisa states as follows:

“As Jesus finished speaking, we reverently approached him and addressed him with a sweet reproach: ‘Son, why have you done this to us?’ And with divine dignity He replied: ‘Why did you look for Me? Did you not know that I came into this world to glorify My Father?’ Having understood the sublime meaning of such a response and adored in it the Divine Will, we returned to Nazareth.

At first sight, the expression of Mary and Joseph “*having understood*” Jesus’ response appears contradictory to the Gospel of Luke which affirms “*they did not understand what he said to them*” (Lk. 2:50). However, Mary’s words a few paragraphs earlier of the same Meditation 5 quell the possibility of any contradiction. For here she reveals that Jesus’ response to her was both a “*mystery*” and “*a sublime lesson*”:

“In this mystery my Son wanted to impart to me and to you a sublime lesson... during these very sorrowful hours of mine, He offered up in sacrifice to the Divine Will his own mother, the one whom He loves so much in order to show me how I too, one day, would have to offer up in sacrifice to the Supreme Will the life of my own Son” (when for three days He would be in the tomb).

In light of the preceding, one may conclude that while God’s *mysteries* cannot be completely understood by any created mind, they can indeed be *understood* in part, e.g., the mystery of the Trinity, the Hypostatic Union, Immaculate Conception, etc. Such is the case with Jesus’ response to Mary and Joseph in the temple.