



WALKING *with* MARY: A Scripture Study with WINE

— An 8-week intimate journey with Mary, our Mother —

Lesson 1

Walking with Mary “In the Beginning”

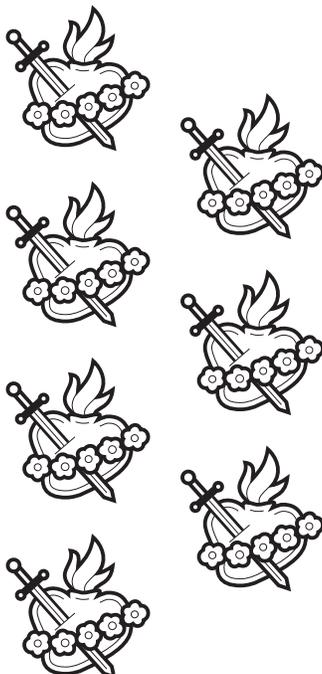
by Alyssa Bormes



Genesis 2:4 - 3:24

Daily Lectio Divina

Walk with Mary by spending each day prayerfully praying **Genesis 2:4 - 3: 24**. Be sure to capture your thoughts, prayers, and insights in your *Called by Name* WINE Journal. Check your heart each day as you pray by coloring in one of the Immaculate Hearts below.



Genesis introduces us to the good of creation—the earthly paradise of Adam and Eve. However, evil enters the picture, and the battle begins. Right when it looks darkest, the promise is given—the Redeemer will come from the Woman.

In Genesis 2, creation is taking place, all in perfect order. Adam is in the middle of a lush garden, yet he is alone. God “tills” Adam into existence from the soil, fashioning him from the dirt. However, the woman, Eve, doesn’t come from the lowly ground, she is created of something finer, the rib of Adam. She completes creation; she is a helper to Adam; she compliments him; they live in communion, in relationship. Everything is in perfect order with the creation of Eve.

Paradise really is a paradise. Adam and Eve live there in harmony with God and each other. They have an eye-to-eye gaze, which is why they can be naked and unashamed. Their whole attitude is one of self-gift to the other. They don’t look to use the other, instead they only see the other’s dignity. This relationship mirrors the Trinity, whose perfectly ordered love overflows to all of creation, especially Adam and Eve.

The Garden comes with just one commandment, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Everything will remain in order if they obey. This one rule is not a rule just to be a rule, it is there to protect relationship—especially Adam and Eve’s relationship with God and each other.

Ah—then the part none of us want to happen: the serpent enters the garden. Adam has not kept the garden free of evil; Eve receives the evil one. His promise is a lie that they accept. Immediately, relationship is broken, and love is out of order.

Mercifully, there is the promise of redemption, a battle of good and evil. The *protoevangelium* (*Gen 3:15*) announces the New Adam, the Redeemer, and the New Eve, the Woman who is Mary. The failings of Adam and Eve will now be rectified in Jesus and Mary. The *protoevangelium* promises an explosion of good coming. Mary’s great fiat at the Incarnation of the Messiah will result in the serpent’s head being crushed and all love being put back in order.

Pray, Ponder, and Put Pen to Paper

Question 1:

Describe your understanding of Mary's role in the salvific work of Christ. How has Alyssa's reflection expanded or deepened your previous understanding?

Question 2:

What characteristics in a relationship do you seek in order to live in harmony with that person/s?

Question 3:

What are some of the ways you work to keep the "serpent out of your garden"? Ex: Nightly Examine, Monthly Confession, etc.

MEET the AUTHOR
Guiding You as You walk with Mary



Alyssa Bormes

is an educator, author, speaker, and retreat leader. She currently teaches at the Chesterton Academy in Hopkins, Minnesota, and at the Catechetical Institute in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Alyssa writes for the Catholic Spirit, and the WINE blog, is the host of a weekly show, "Catholic Kaleidoscope," on Radio Maria US, is the author of The Catechism of Hockey, and one of the editors of "Called By Name: 365 Daily Devotions for Catholic Women."