

GOSPEL PEARLS

Who is in hell?

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22_12_2021



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My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord (Luke 1, 46)

Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all

generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy – according to the promise he made to our ancestors – of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.(Luke 1, 46-55)

Mary's greatness is based on humility. If we are humble, in fact, we understand how God's love for us is a gift, certainly undeserved, which should push us to trust Him completely, just as Mary did. By considering the example of the Mother of God, we meditate on the indisputable fact that in heaven there are many repentant sinners, while in hell there are many seemingly virtuous and devout who, however, were not sufficiently humble to recognise their dependence on God.