

An example for us

• The blessed Virgin, in choosing "the better part," manifested her singular prudence, as this is a virtue which guides us in the choice of our objectives, and in the selection of the means to attain them. Her excellence in this particular is the more remarkable, as she had no example to imitate, but was the first to give the example of a total and perpetual voluntary sacrifice of herself to the divine service.



• May we learn from her example to choose the better part, according to the measure of grace imparted to us, and ever esteem it as the greatest happiness and the most consummate wisdom, to be occupied on earth as the blessed are in heaven, — in contemplating and adoring the divine perfections! Happy those souls who are called to this life "hidden with Christ in God"!

To imitate the prudent Virgin

- We should strive to imitate the prudence of Mary as exactly as possible.
- Whatever is conducive to the great purpose of our creation, the attainment of Heaven, should be embraced; whatever is opposed to it, or likely to place obstacles before us in our course, should be rejected.
- Even in our most trivial actions, we should be governed by prudence, as that virtue is the only means by which we can please God and avoid the violation of fraternal charity.

Let us imitate that truly prudent Virgin, whose example the Church so greatly recommends for our imitation, and from whom we may learn prudence without guile, and wisdom without affectation.



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The Immaculata Virgin most prudent



This woman was most prudent.

I Kings 25:3

The prudence of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- The Blessed Virgin Mary firstly manifested her prudence by devoting herself to God's service at an early age, when she was presented by her holy parents in the temple of God, and where she remained occupied in the meditation of His law, and in the celebration of His divine perfections.

- The other circumstances of Mary's life also provide great evidence of her prudence. So far removed was she from everything that could diminish the lustre of this virtue, that when her spouse, St. Joseph, perceived her pregnancy and knowing her prudence, seems to have been perplexed rather than inclined to suspicion. Mary, with the fullest reliance on God, does not seem to have made any effort to vindicate her innocence, but patiently awaited the supernatural manifestation of her divine maternity.



- Again, although she rarely appears in the Gospel story of our Lord, whenever she is mentioned, we can detect the prudence which distinguished her. After remaining three months with her holy cousin, St. Elizabeth, she returned to Nazareth, when the time of the birth of St. John the Baptist approached. The Fathers of the Church remark that this was to avoid observation by those who would be present at that joyous occasion. Like the prudent merchant in the gospel, she studiously concealed the precious jewel she possessed, and did not unnecessarily expose it by imprudently manifesting the extraordinary favour God had bestowed upon her. She treasured up all the words spoken of her Divine Son by the angels on the night of his birth, pondering them in her heart, as well as those which the prophetess Anna and the holy Simeon pronounced when He was presented in the temple.

- During the public ministry of Christ, she seldom appeared, as best became her sex and her near relation to the Redeemer. But whenever we find mention of her, we may gather evidence of her singular prudence from the brief notice the evangelists take of her.

Prayer to Mary, Virgin most prudent

O most prudent Virgin, I approach thee with sentiments of the most profound veneration, and I congratulate thee on the heavenly prudence thou didst manifest from thy earliest years, and which always distinguished thee throughout your life. Thou art the prudent Virgin, who didst seek God in all thy actions, and ever kept thy lamp burning with the oil of good works, with which thou didst continually replenish it.

May I imitate thee in this respect, and not expose myself to be excluded, like the foolish virgins, from the nuptials of the Divine Son, by reason of my tepidity or want of vigilance.

O Virgin, bright mirror of heavenly wisdom, be unto me a guide, and make me ever prefer what is most conducive to my salvation to whatever flatters my pride or gratifies my feelings. Preserve me from those errors in which passion would involve me: may I be simple and prudent, sincere without levity, and reserved without moroseness.

Amen.