

## **MORNING MEDITATION**

### **Friday, Fifth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not.**

(C.S. Lewis)

#### **Genesis 3:1-8**

Sin begins with a distortion of truth.....

Sin results from surrender to untruth.....

With sin came shame and guilt and other such slings and arrows and man had to find ways to hide from the truth.....

Nothing had changed in God. God keeps moving in the garden...God's voice resounds in the garden for all to hear!

#### **Psalm 32**

**Happy are those whose sins are forgiven!**

#### **Mark 7:31-37**

Some people brought a deaf man with a speech impediment. Jesus put his finger into the man's ears and spitting, touched his tongue and said, "Be opened". The man listened and he spoke!

Jesus took the man aside. Deaf folks are always a little embarrassed and when someone shouts at them, they become more embarrassed. Jesus tenderly attends to a man for whom life was difficult and heals him.

For Jesus this was not another case. He was a person, and this person was in need. The man had a special need and he needed special attention. He was given special consideration. Jesus treated him with compassion.

**Be compassionate in your relationships! Be considerate and tenderly care for those in need!**

The people said, "he has done everything well".

**Do everything well. Give everything your best!**

## **Saint of the Day, February 10 - St. Scholastica and 104 other saints are remembered this day.**

Scholastica and her twin brother were born around 480 in Nursia, Umbria, Italy of wealthy parents. She and her brother Benedict were brought up together until the time he left to pursue studies in Rome. Twins often share the same interests and ideas with an equal intensity. Scholastica and her twin brother, Benedict, established religious communities within a few miles from each other. Little is known of Scholastica's early life. She founded a religious community for women near Monte Cassino at Plombariola, five miles from where her brother governed a monastery.

The twins visited each other once a year in a farmhouse because Scholastica was not permitted inside the monastery. They spent these times discussing spiritual matters. According to the Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great, the brother and sister spent their last day together in prayer and conversation. Scholastica sensed her death was close at hand and she begged Benedict to stay with her until the next day. He refused her request because he did not want to spend a night outside the monastery, thus breaking his own Rule. Scholastica asked God to let her brother remain and a severe thunderstorm broke out, preventing Benedict and his monks from returning to the abbey.

Benedict cried out, "God forgive you, Sister. What have you done?" Scholastica replied, "I asked a favor of you and you refused. I asked it of God, and he granted it." Brother and sister parted the next morning after their long discussion. Three days later, February 10, 543, Benedict was praying in his monastery and saw the soul of his sister rising heavenward in the form of a white dove. Benedict then announced the death of his sister to the monks and later buried her in the tomb he had prepared for himself.

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