

# MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday after Epiphany

**God has not only created us with a purpose but also endowed us with a direction and the power to fulfill that purpose.**

## **I John 4:19-5:4**

John encourages his readers to make love real and warns against self-deception in love. No one can love God without loving his brother.

## **Psalm 72**

**O God, with your judgment endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king's son;  
He shall govern your people with justice  
And your afflicted ones with judgment.**

## **Luke 4:14-22**

Luke presents Jesus, full of God's Spirit, in Galilee, as a great prophet proclaiming good news. The good news he proclaimed was real and not an abstract idea or a hope or a desire or a wish to be cherished, or something to wait for. It is so real that it was happening, "The Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing".

**We must proclaim the good news today.... make it real for others and us. Our faith must be true, our witness must be authentic and continuous, our prayer must be intense and unceasing, our service must be generous and practical, our hope must be our strength, our love must be forgiving and gracious and benevolent.**

They admired his eloquence but rejected his message. And what they rejected was "GOOD NEWS" - liberty to captives, sight to the blind - a year of Grace. They failed to look beyond. Hence, they saw only a local carpenter. Prejudice blinds the mind and narrows the heart.

**Lord, help me to look beyond what I see.... give me a clearer and deeper vision of your presence in all that I encounter on my journey of life.....**

**Lor, give me the wisdom to recognize and accept my own prejudices and the courage to overcome them.**

The spirit of the Lord is upon me; He has anointed me to proclaim good news....

**Lord, empower me with your Holy Spirit, that I may proclaim your good news.**

**Saint of the Day, January 9 - Saint Adrian of Canterbury and 15 other saints are remembered this day.**

Adrian, also spelled Hadrian, was born around 635 C.E. in North Africa. He was a scholar in Anglo-Saxon England and the abbot of Saint Peter's and Saint Paul's in Canterbury. He was a noted teacher and commentator of the Bible. Adrian humbly declined, twice, the papal request to become Archbishop of Canterbury. Pope Saint Vitalian accepted the rejection on the condition that Adrian serve as the Holy Father's assistant and adviser. Adrian accepted but ended up spending most of his life and doing most of his work in Canterbury.

He died, probably, on January 9, 710 in Canterbury, United Kingdom and was buried in the monastery. Several hundred years later, when reconstruction was being done, Adrian's body was discovered in an incorrupt state. As word spread, people flocked to his tomb, which became famous for miracles. Rumor had it that young schoolboys in trouble with their masters made regular visits there.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs