

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Twenty Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

**God's truth, God's goodness, God's love, God's justice, God's forgiveness,
God's peace – all that is of God and from God are pure and simple.**

Job 1:6-22

Job faced four tragedies one after the other. He lost his cattle, his sheep, his camels and finally his own family. He was a good and just man. He did not do anything to deserve such treatment. Through all these, Job remained faithful to his God, never saying anything disrespectful of God.

Psalm 17

**Hear O Lord, a just suit;
Attend to my outcry;
Hearken to my prayer,
from lips without deceit.**

Luke 9:46-50

The disciples wanted to know who was of greatest importance in the kingdom. Jesus responded: 'unless you turn and become as children, you will not enter the kingdom of God. You are going in the wrong direction, not in the direction of the Kingdom'. You are aiming at personal power, prestige, etc. which is the opposite of the Kingdom.

Humility is the quality of a person who belongs in the kingdom. Child's trust, dependence, innocence and purity are all qualities of people of the kingdom. Reflect on turning toward the Kingdom, away from personal power, prestige, etc.

Jesus invited his disciples and he invites us today to be childlike and be willing to surrender in loving and generous service. He invites us to have a new vision of "greatness" as service, humility, and self-surrender, different from what the world seems to offer. Those of us, who choose to follow Jesus and be his disciples, must learn to redefine greatness as humility, service, and self-surrender.

Change your vision: it is a privilege, an honor and blessing to be the last and to serve the least.

**Saint of the Day, September 26 - Saints Cosmas and Damian and 15 other saints
are remembered this day**

Nothing is known of their lives except that they suffered martyrdom in Syria during the

persecution of the Emperor Diocletian. According to traditions, the twin brothers were born in Arabia and became skilled doctors.

Saladino d'Ascoli, a 15th century Italian physician, claims that the medieval electuary, a pasty mass consisting of a drug mixed with sugar and water or honey suitable for oral administration, known as opopira, a complex compound medicine used to treat diverse maladies including paralysis, was invented by Cosmas and Damian.

During the persecution under Diocletian, Cosmas and Damian were arrested by order of the Prefect of Cilicia, who ordered them under torture to recant. However, according to legend they stayed true to their faith, enduring being hung on a cross, stoned and shot by arrows and finally suffered execution by beheading. Anthimus, Leontius and Euprepus, their younger brothers, who were inseparable from them throughout life, shared in their martyrdom.

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