

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

**Craving for more and better takes away your peace.
Be content with what you have and are and you find peace and serenity.**

1Peter 1:18-25

In this excerpt, Peter reflects on a Christ-filled life as life of deep reverence for God and God's personal presence. The reason for this reverence is that we are on our journey to God who is both father and judge. We must live in deep reverence also because we have been redeemed by the death of Jesus. Christ-filled life also demands that we live in brotherly love, in fellowship with others.

Psalm 147

**Glorify the Lord, O Jerusalem; Praise your God, O Zion.
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
He has blessed your children within you...**

Mark 10:32-45

Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem. He began to tell them about what was waiting for him in Jerusalem: judgment, condemnation, rejection, abuse and death, but resurrection three days later.

When Jesus and his disciples were poorly treated in a Samaritan town, James and John suggested that they ask God to strike the town with fire from heaven. Jesus rebuked the two and called them to be tolerant. Now as they hear about what would happen to their master in Jerusalem, they came to the defense of the master and now they want to know whether they could sit beside Jesus in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus told him that "sitting beside" was a gift from the father. It was up to them now to surrender themselves in service. First rank goes to ALL who surrender themselves in service!!!

"Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest and whoever wants to rank first must serve the needs of all"

Pray that you may have the courage and the wisdom to surrender yourself in service.

Pray that you may be gifted by the father with his gift of "sitting beside" him in His Kingdom.

Saint of the day, May 27 - St. Augustine of Canterbury and 6 other saints are remembered this day

Augustine's date of birth and the details of his early life are not known. Most likely born in Rome to a noble family, he entered monastic life as a young man. The community he joined had been recently founded by a Benedictine monk named Gregory, who would go on to become Pope and eventually be known as St. Gregory the Great. The friendship between Gregory and Augustine had great historical consequences, as it was the Pope who would eventually send his fellow monk to evangelize England

In the year 596, Pope Gregory sent Augustine, by then a Benedictine monk, and 39 other monks to England as missionaries. As they passed through Gaul, the locals convinced the monks that the Anglo-Saxons were savages, and they warned them that the English Channel was too dangerous to cross. Augustine decided that the danger was too great, and they returned to Rome. Pope Gregory allayed their fears and strengthened them to resume their journey.

Augustine and his monks landed in the Kingdom of Kent that was ruled by the pagan king, Ethelbert. Ethelbert was married to a Christian woman, and so he was familiar with the faith. The king provided the monks with hospitality, and within a year the king himself was baptized. In 597, Augustine was appointed Bishop of Canterbury. Because England was a pagan land, Augustine faced many obstacles converting the people. However, Pope Gregory had given him the missionary principle that helped him change hearts and minds. Instead of destroying pagan temples, he transformed them into churches. Pagan rites and festivals were transformed, as much as possible, into Christian ones. He died on May 26, 604 in Canterbury, United Kingdom.

Augustine achieved limited success in his eight years as Bishop, but his work and successes planted the seeds of Christianity that would eventually lead to the conversion of all of England by the year 680 A.D.

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