

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

Forbearance is staying on the task in adverse conditions, without acting on annoyance or anger in a negative way.

Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21

Jeremiah laments his birth. He lived a good life; heard and responded to God's call; tried to fulfill the mission God had given him; made God's word the joy of his heart "devoured them" as he says....but he became a man of contention and strife to all in the land, he says. As he lamented, the Lord promised to be with him in his strife and make Jeremiah his mouthpiece.

Psalms 59

**Rescue me from my enemies, O my God;
from my adversaries defend me.
Rescue me from evildoers,
from bloodthirsty men, save me.**

Matthew 13:44-46

Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to a treasure buried in a field. A man found it, hid it, rejoiced in his find, and sold all he had and bought that field. He did not just pick up the pearl...he bought the whole field.

The kingdom is buried deep within, here and now.....and not something yet to happen. The kingdom is found within the context our daily life and responsibilities and not in some extraordinary, earth-shattering event. All that surrounds the kingdom gains a new meaning because the treasure of the kingdom has been found. This treasure is worth sacrificing everything that we have.

Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to a pearl of great value for which a merchant would sell all he owns. A pearl was the most beautiful thing that the listeners of Jesus could imagine.

The kingdom is presented as the most beautiful thing that one can dream of and contemplate and it is worth all the sacrifice that one has to make.

Saint of the Day, July 31 - St. Ignatius of Loyola and 359 other saints are remembered this day.

Ignatius was born in the ancestral castle of the Loyolas in the Basque province of Guipúzcoa, Spain, on October 23, 1491. He became a page in the service of a relative and then a knight in the service of another relative, who employed him in military undertakings and on a diplomatic mission. While defending the citadel of Pamplona against the French, Ignatius was hit by a cannonball on May 20, 1521, sustaining a bad fracture of his right leg and damage to his left. During his long recovery, the only books available to him for reading were about the life of Christ and biographies of the saints. Ignatius was captivated by what he read. Inspired by the lives of Christ and the saints, he gave up all his ambitions and surrendered everything “for the greater glory of God”.

Ignatius was a man who was once disinterested in education and was ambitious to be a military officer. He was, on his own admission, in his Autobiography, “a man given to the vanities of the world, whose chief delight consisted in martial exercises, with a great and vain desire to win renown.” He was now a changed man. He spent many months in prayer discerning what God wanted for him. Other men were attracted to his spirituality and became his companions. Ignatius instructed them to “seek the greater glory of God” and the good of all humanity.

In 1534, at the age of 43, he and six others, one of whom was Saint Francis Xavier, vowed to live in poverty and chastity and to go to the Holy Land. They became known as the Society of Jesus. All were ordained into the priesthood in 1537. Ignatius became the Order’s first Superior General, and he sent his fellow Jesuits as missionaries to the East Indies, Morocco, the Congo, Ethiopia, and South America. At the time of his death in 1556, there were 1000 Jesuits in 100 different educational institutions throughout the world. Georgetown University, the first Jesuit school in the United States, opened in 1789 in Washington D.C. Today there are over 21,000 Jesuits on six continents and in 127 countries. Jesuits are involved in education, evangelization, pastoral ministry, retreats, and other works.

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