

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Monday, Seventh Week of Easter**

**The key to serenity is trusting that the universe is your friend.**

### **Acts 19:1-8**

Paul met twelve men at Ephesus, baptized them and confirmed them with the Holy Spirit. They were men who were baptized in the tradition of John the Baptist. Now, filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to spread the good news.

### **Psalm 68**

**The just rejoice and exult before God;  
They are glad and rejoice.  
Sing to God, chant praise to his name;  
His name is the Lord; exult before him.**

### **John 16:29-33**

In this excerpt, John tells us that the disciples finally surrendered! They made a leap of faith! We know! We have seen! We are convinced! You are speaking plainly! We don't even need to ask you! You know our questions before we ask!

Even as the disciples make this great leap of faith, Jesus cautioned them that they would desert him. Jesus knew their weakness, he knew their failure, he knew that they would let him down in the moment of his real need - still he loved them. What is even more amazing is that Jesus knew his men at their worst and still loved them!

**It is a very difficult thing to forgive someone and still trust them. In Jesus, we find a merging of forgiveness and trust. Jesus loved them and trusted them even in their weakness! Jesus teaches us to forgive and to trust the person who is guilty of failure.**

**It is amazing how Jesus was not thinking of how his disciples' failure would hurt him, but how it would hurt them. Love unconditional it is! It is as though he said to them: "I know what's going to happen. Your disloyalty will not come as a shock to me and it does not make any difference to my love. When you think about it afterwards, don't despair". Jesus gave his gift to the disciples: courage and peace.**

**Saint of the Day, May 18 - St. Pope John I and 18 other saints are remembered this day**

Pope John I was a native of Siena in Italy. We do not have much information about his life before he became pope. He was elected Pope while he was still an archdeacon upon the death of Pope Hormisdas in 523. At that time, the ruler of Italy was Theodoric the Goth who subscribed to the Arianism which denied the divinity of Christ but had tolerated and even favored his Catholic subjects during the early part of his reign. His policy changed at about the time the young John was elected pope.

When the eastern emperor began imposing severe measures on the Arians of his area, the western emperor forced John to head a delegation to the East to soften the measures against the heretics. Little is known of the manner or outcome of the negotiations designed to secure continued toleration of Catholics in the West. On his way home, John was imprisoned at Ravenna because the emperor had begun to suspect that John's friendship with his eastern rival might lead to a conspiracy against his throne. Shortly after his imprisonment, John died on May 18, 526, apparently from the treatment he received in prison. John's body was transported to Rome and he was buried in the Basilica of St. Peter. He was Pope, the bishop of Rome from August 13, 523 to May 18, 526.

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