

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Twelfth week in Ordinary Time

**True simplicity is doing less of what matters least,
and more of what matters most.**

2 Kings 19:9-11, 14-21, 31-36

The King of Assyria sent a letter challenging the faith of Hezekiah, the king of Judah. Hezekiah took the letter to the temple and spread it before the Lord and prayed that the Lord would deliver him and his people from the hands of the Assyrians. The Lord did extraordinary things which made the king of Assyria return home to Nineveh.

Bring all your trouble to the Lord! Bring your messages, both good and bad, before the Lord and seek his blessings!

Psalm 48

**Great is the Lord and wholly to be praised
in the city of our God.
His holy mountain, fairest of heights,
is the joy of all the earth.**

Mathew 7:6, 12-14

7:6 is difficult to understand. However, in this context, the meaning should be understood as a call to be cautious that the message of Jesus, the truth He proclaimed, is preserved in its integrity; that the truth is not swallowed up by those who are not yet ready or prepared to understand or accept. The message has to be preserved and transmitted in its purity.

This has great value even today. It calls us to be cautious, to be careful not to dilute or water down the message, to be aware that there are some who may not be ready, at this point in time, to accept and so be patient. Be careful not to dilute the message in order to win others over.

7:12-14 - Treat others as you would want them to treat you. It is easy to be weak, selfish and full of revenge. The journey to eternal life is not that easy. It calls for sacrifice, self-control, discipline, travel through rough roads....

Take the disciplined path that leads to lasting, enduring, eternal life.

Saint of the day, June 21 - St. Aloysius Gonzaga and 17 other saints are remembered this day.

Aloysius Gonzaga was born on March 9, 1568 in Castiglione delle Stiviere, Republic of Venice, Italy. He was sent to be a page in the Medici court in Florence when he was only eight years old. From about the age of seven he had an unusual sense of closeness to God. He became aware of a conflict in his early teens when he was sent to the royal court of Spain. It was a materialistic and immoral place. He needed self-discipline and courage to live as a Christian in these surroundings.

In 1584, Aloysius returned to Italy. He sensed that his society could not be reformed from within. The only way to survive was to get out completely. He decided to release all his property rights to his younger brother and to become a Jesuit. He knew the Jesuits would treat him like everyone else, not like royalty. Also, he would be expected to take a vow of poverty. In 1591, an epidemic hit Rome. Victims died in agony in the streets of the city. The priests of Aloysius's order opened a hospital. Aloysius, who was 23, volunteered to serve the sick. On his back he carried the dying into the hospital. He washed them, made their beds, and cheered them. Then he caught the disease himself. Three months later he died on June 21, 1591 and was canonized in 1726.

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