

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Twelfth week in Ordinary Time

We need silence, stillness and solitude to recognize our own brokenness and bring into it the healing grace of God.

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 23 - St. Joseph Cafasso and 21 other saints are remembered this day

Joseph Cafasso was born at Castelnuovo d'Asti in Italy to peasant parents on January 15, 1811. He studied at the seminary at Turin and was ordained in 1833. He continued his theological studies at the seminary and university at Turin and then at the Institute of St. Francis, and despite a deformed spine, became a brilliant lecturer in moral theology there. He was a popular teacher, actively opposed Jansenism, and fought state intrusion into Church affairs. He succeeded Luigi Guala as rector of the Institute in 1848 and made a deep impression on his young priest students with his holiness and insistence on discipline and high standards. He was a sought-after confessor and spiritual adviser, and ministered to prisoners, working to improve their terrible conditions. He met Don Bosco in 1827 and the two became close friends. It was through Joseph's encouragement that Bosco decided his vocation was working with boys. Joseph was his adviser, worked closely with him in his foundations, and convinced others to fund and found religious institutes and charitable organizations. Joseph died on June 23 at Turin and was canonized in 1947.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs