

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Wednesday, Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time**

**A person is simple when he/she strives to be what he/she truly is  
and nothing more and nothing less.**

### **2 Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3**

King Josiah came to know of the discovery of the book of the law. When he realized that this book contained the law of the Lord which his ancestors had failed to obey, he tore his garments and gathered all the priests, the elders, the prophets and all the people and had the entire content of the book of the law read out to them. The king renewed the covenant and all the people participated.

**Take a moment! Renew your commitment to the Lord today!**

### **Psalm 119**

**Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of your statutes,  
that I may exactly observe them.  
Give me discernment, that I may observe your law  
and keep it with all my heart.**

### **Mathew 7:15-20**

Honor the prophets who have abandoned themselves to God. But be watchful of those who have not! Jesus points out that good trees produce good fruit....good character gives witness to virtuous and noble lives.

**Your fruitfulness reflects your character. True character of a person is reflected in his actions.**

**Be watchful! Proclaiming (teaching, preaching) truth and values happens through your personality, your presence, your character and not your words. Fine words do not take the place of fine deeds.**

**May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all.  
May he strengthen your hearts, making them blameless and holy before our God  
and Father..... (I Thessalonians 3:12-13)**

**Saint of the day, June 22 - St. Thomas More and 19 other saints are remembered this day.**

Thomas More was born in London on February 7, 1478. He was the son of Sir John

More, a successful lawyer and later a judge, and his wife Agnes. He was the second of six children. He was educated at St Anthony's School, then considered one of London's best schools. From 1490 to 1492, More served John Morton, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chancellor of England, as a household page.

More began his studies at Oxford in 1492, and received a classical education, becoming proficient in both Latin and Greek. He left Oxford after two years, at his father's insistence, to begin legal training in London.

More once seriously contemplated abandoning his legal career to become a monk. Between 1503 and 1504 he lived near the Carthusian monastery outside the walls of London and joined in the monks' spiritual exercises. Although he deeply admired their piety, More ultimately decided to remain a layman, standing for election to Parliament in 1504 and marrying the following year. He and his wife Jane had four children.

More held important positions in politics and government and was very successful as a writer and a lawyer. He became a member of Parliament, Head of the House of Commons, Treasurer and devoted confidant of England's King Henry VIII.

King Henry was Catholic, but his personal wants came first. He wanted a male heir and blamed Queen Catherine of Aragon, his wife of 18 years, for not producing one. He demanded an annulment, so he could marry another woman. Catherine refused. He argued before Thomas More that Scripture supported his view that his marriage was invalid because Catherine had been first married to his brother. Thomas tried to find validity in the king's position, but ultimately, he could not agree with him. More would not take the King's request for an annulment to the pope.

King Henry listened to Protestant advisors and severed his ties to the Roman Catholic Church. He appointed himself head of the Church of England and declared his marriage to Catherine invalid. Thomas More would not recognize the King as head of the Church of England, and he was imprisoned for a year in the Tower of London. False testimony convicted More of treason, and he was beheaded on July 6, 1535. He was canonized by Pope Pius XI on May 19, 1935.

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