

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Thirty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time

**Steadfastness in the face of trouble
is the mark of a really admirable man.**
(Beethoven)

Daniel 7:2-14

This excerpt describes Daniel's vision of four beasts that emerged from the sea, from the depth of chaos. The first beast was a lion with eagle's wings and a human heart representing the Babylonian empire; the second was a bear with three ribs hanging from its teeth representing the Medes; the third was a leopard with four heads and four wings representing the Persians; and the fourth with iron teeth and huge feet representing the Greek empire.

The fifth figure that appeared in Daniel's vision was not a beast, not an evil earthly king, but the glorious Son of Man. This Son of man is the one on whom the Ancient one, God, would confer dominion, glory and sovereignty. The four beasts emerged from the depths, from chaos, from evil...but the Son of Man comes from heaven, from goodness, from God. The four beasts reigned only for a period of time and were overthrown by others like them, but the Son of Man would reign over all people and forever. We have come to know today that this Son of Man is Jesus. Jesus referred to himself as the Son of Man who came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Reflect on being called to give yourself in service to others.

Daniel 3:75-81

**Mountains and hill bless the Lord;
Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord;
Praise and exalt him above all forever.**

Luke 21:29-33

Jesus had talked about the "Day of the Lord" and the terrible events that surround that day. He talked about what he himself had to face and what his disciples eventually would face. Hearing all this, the disciples wanted to know what they should do and what signs they should be looking for. Jesus used familiar imageries of sun, moon, stars, gathering of clouds, budding fig tree, etc. to describe the reality of God breaking into history. Jesus called them to recognize the coming of God in all happenings and not look for God in extra-ordinary events.

Be alert, stay awake and continue to fulfill the mission of Jesus in whatever situation you may be.....recognize the presence and movement of God in all you do!

Saint of the Day, December 1 - Bl. Charles de Foucauld and 20 other saints are remembered this day.

Charles de Foucauld (Brother Charles of Jesus) was born in Strasbourg, France on September 15, 1858. Orphaned at the age of six, he and his sister Marie were raised by their grandfather in whose footsteps he followed by taking up a military career. He lost his faith as an adolescent. His taste for easy living was well known to all and yet he showed that he could be strong willed and constant in difficult situations. He undertook a risky exploration of Morocco. Seeing the way Muslims expressed their faith questioned him and he began repeating, "My God, if you exist, let me come to know you."

On his return to France, the warm, respectful welcome he received from his deeply Christian family made him continue his search. Under the guidance of Fr. Huvelin he rediscovered God in October 1886. He was then 28 years old. He said, "As soon as I believed in God, I understood that I could not do otherwise than to live for him alone."

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land revealed his vocation to him: to follow Jesus in his life at Nazareth. He spent 7 years as a Trappist, first in France and then at Akbès in Syria. Later he began to lead a life of prayer and adoration, alone, near a convent of Poor Clares in Nazareth.

Ordained a priest at 43 (1901) he left for the Sahara, living at first in Beni Abbès and later at Tamanrasset among the Tuaregs of the Hoggar. He wanted to be among those who were, "the furthest removed, the most abandoned." He wanted all who drew close to him to find in him a brother, "a universal brother." In a great respect for the culture and faith of those among whom he lived, his desire was to "shout the Gospel with his life". "I would like to be sufficiently good that people would say, "If such is the servant, what must the Master be like?" On the evening of December 1, 1916, he was killed by a band of marauders who had encircled his house.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs