

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Tuesday, Twenty Second Week in Ordinary Time**

**Little inconveniences and problems become big in the absence of forbearance!**

## **I Corinthians 2:10-16**

Paul tells us that the only person who can tell us the truth about God is the spirit of God. He uses a human analogy to explain this. There are feelings, thoughts, memories, etc. so private and so intimate that no one knows except a man's own spirit. Paul says that the same is true of God. Only the spirit of God can lead us into the really intimate things of God. So only a person who is sensitive to the Spirit of God can discern and come to know the wisdom of God.

## **Psalm 145**

**The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The Lord is good to all  
And compassionate to ward all his works.**

## **Luke 4:31-37**

Jesus began to teach in the town of Capernaum. Luke tells us that his listeners were "spellbound by his teaching, for his words had authority". His authority was something new and different from what they were accustomed to. When the Rabbis taught, they relied on the authority of someone else before them...they supported their teaching with quotations from Moses or the Prophets or some great men of the past. What Jesus taught came from within and what came from within was visible in his person.... this was a new kind of authority.

The "authority" that Luke speaks of is not the authority that comes from occupying a position or from having a qualifying certificate. It is the authority of his person.... He was what he spoke. His message was evident in him. He didn't speak about faith...his word carried faith. He didn't speak about love.... he was love in person, incarnate. He didn't speak about compassion.... he was compassion in person. There was no discrepancy between his word and himself..... he was God's word incarnate, in the flesh, in person.

**May the words of your mouth and the thoughts of your heart reflect who you are...you are called to image God, to be godlike in your ways, to live godly lives!**

**Saint of the day, September 3 - St. Gregory the Great and 203 other saints are remembered this day.**

St. Gregory was born into a wealthy noble Roman family with close connections to the church around the year 540. He was born into a period of upheaval in Italy. From 542 the so-called Plague of Justinian swept through the provinces of the empire, including Italy. The plague caused famine, panic, and sometimes rioting. In some parts of the country, over 1/3 of the population was wiped out or destroyed, with heavy spiritual and emotional effects on the people of the Empire.

Like most young men of his position in Roman society, Gregory was well educated, learning grammar, rhetoric, the sciences, literature, and law; he excelled in all these fields.

[He knew Latin authors, natural science, history, mathematics and music and had such a "fluency with imperial law" that he may have trained in it "as a preparation for a career in public life". He became a government official, advancing quickly in rank to become, like his father, Prefect of Rome, the highest civil office in the city, when only thirty-three years old.

On his father's death, Gregory converted his family villa into a monastery dedicated to Andrew the Apostle. Eventually, Pope Pelagius II ordained Gregory a deacon. Gregory was elected Pope by acclamation to succeed Pelagius II in 590, when the latter died of the plague spreading through the city. Gregory bemoaned the burden of office and mourned the loss of the undisturbed life of prayer he had once enjoyed as a monk. When he became pope in 590, among his first acts was writing a series of letters disavowing any ambition to the throne of Peter and praising the contemplative life of the monks.

In his official documents, Gregory was the first to make extensive use of the term "Servant of the Servants of God" (*servus servorum Dei*) as a papal title, thus initiating a practice that was to be followed by most subsequent popes. He made a general revision of the liturgy of the Pre-Tridentine Mass, "removing many things, changing a few, adding some". The mainstream form of Western plainchant, standardized in the late 9th century, was attributed to Pope Gregory and so took the name of Gregorian chant. He died on March 12, 604.

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