

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, First Week of Lent

**In the pursuit of purpose, we discover the profound connection
between our aspirations and the universe.**

Esther 12:14-16, 23-25

Esther, a Jewess, became queen of Persia. King Ahasuerus had fixed the date for the execution of the Jews in the kingdom in a single day. Esther, feeling intensely the pain of her people, pours out the anguish of her soul and that of her people to God in prayer: Be mindful of us O Lord.....she prayed. Esther won favor with God and with God's favor the king and the Jews were saved.

Reflect on the providential care of God for God's people. Reflect on your own urgent need to pour out your heart and the heart of your people to God!

Psalm 138

**The Lord will complete what he has done for me;
Your kindness O Lord, endures for ever;
Forsake not the work of your hands.**

Mathew 7:7-12

"The heavenly father will give good things to those who ask him...." and will not give anything dangerous or injurious to you.....Asking God is an act of trust that God has power over our lives - that God loves us so much that we can trust him with our lives, our lives' concerns, needs, problems, etc.

We place ourselves in the hands of Our Father who knows our needs more than we do ourselves. We stand before him with open arms to receive or to let go. We surrender ourselves to him and remain open to receive His Gifts.

Shortly before bed time, a little boy lost one of his favorite marbles, a large, colorful one. After searching for it unsuccessfully, the boy approached his father in tears, saying "Can I pray and ask God to help me find my marble?" The father agreed and they both closed their eyes and prayed. The boy prayed with great faith and the father joined him in his prayer: "Dear God, help me find my favorite marble". The next day, the father was afraid to ask his son if he had found the marble. He was concerned that the boy's sincere faith would be hurt if he had not found the marble. The father gently asked: "did

you find the marble, son?' "No", the boy replied, "but God made me not to want to care about it any more."

God has more ways to answer our prayers than simply saying "Yes" and granting our wish. There may be times when we pray about an issue or a concern and simply come to a place of peace about it.

Saint of the Day, March 13 - St. Leander of Seville and 16 other saints are remembered this day.

Leander was born at Cartagena, Spain around the year 534. St. Isidore and Fulgentius, both bishops were his brothers, and his sister, Florentina, is also numbered among the saints. Leander's own family was heavily influenced by Arianism, but he himself grew up to be a fervent Christian. He entered a monastery as a young man and spent three years in prayer and study. At the end of that tranquil period he was made a bishop. For the rest of his life he worked strenuously to fight against heresy. The death of the anti-Christian king in 586 helped Leander's cause. He and the new king worked hand in hand to restore orthodoxy and a renewed sense of morality. Leander succeeded in persuading many Arian bishops to change their loyalties. Leander died around 600.

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