

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Thirty-second Week in Ordinary Time

People who use time wisely spend it on activities that advance their overall purpose in life.

(John C. Maxwell)

Wisdom 2:23 - 3:9

The ancient author of this book tells us that man is made in image of God and so has an imperishable nature. Death is only a passing away into the eternal and imperishable life with God. The foolish see death as an affliction and a destruction. But the wise know that those who died are with God celebrating the fullness of life.

Death is not the opposite of life...just an opening into the eternal!

Psalms 34

**I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall be ever in my mouth.
let my soul glory in the Lord;
The lowly will hear me and be glad.**

Luke 17:7-10

Jesus uses the example of a servant, who comes in from the field after a day's work, being asked to do more work. Should this servant expect gratitude from his master for doing his duty?

The featured servant is doing double duty, more than expected of him, more than his assigned duty. The servant is to see this "call beyond duty" as a gift, an honor and an expression of the master's gratitude.

Be like the Master, Jesus, who came to serve and serve generously. Stir into flame the gift of faith. Keep the prayer going: Lord, increase our faith.

Saint of the day, November 11 – Saint Martin of Tours and 15 other saints are remembered this day

Martin was born in 316 or 336 in Savaria in the Diocese of Pannonia, Hungary. His father was a senior officer (tribune) in the Roman army. At the age of ten he attended the

Church against the wishes of his parents and became a catechumen. At the age of fifteen, Martin was required to follow his father into the cavalry corps of the Roman military. Scholars think he served as part of the emperor's guard.

As a young soldier, Martin encountered a beggar who was unclothed and it was very cold. Martin removed his cloak, cut it in half, gave this half to the beggar and dressed himself with the other half. That night, Martin had a vision in which Christ spoke to him, "Martin, a mere catechumen has clothed me." About the age of 20, Martin made clear to his superiors that he would no longer fight, following his formed Christian conscience.

"I am a soldier for Christ. It is not lawful for me to fight". With these words Martin of Tours identified himself forever as a saint of peace before the emperor. Today, he would be called a conscientious objector. Martin laid down his weapons and spent the rest of his life serving Christ with great compassion for the poor and the suffering people as the bishop of the city of Tours. Martin was so loved as a man of compassion and peace that he was the first person to be honored as saint who was not a martyr.

In 371, the city of Tours needed a new bishop and the people decided to call Martin to the office. Martin did not want the job so the people decided to trick him into the office. The people insisted he was needed to administer to someone sick. So, he came out as quickly as he could. When he learned it was a trick to make him a bishop, he tried to hide. He was quickly discovered and the people called him forward to be ordained to the office of Bishop. Even though he did not really want the office, he was ordained - and he became a holy and hardworking Bishop.

Martin was a good pastor and shepherd of the people. As a Bishop, he established a system of parishes to manage his diocese. He made a point to visit each parish at least once per year. Yet, he longed for more prayer and wanted to pursue a monastic life. In the year 372 Martin established an abbey at Marmoutier so he could retreat there and live as a monk with the many disciples he had attracted.

Martin died in Candes-Saint-Martin, Gaul in 397. Saint Martin is the patron of the poor, soldiers, conscientious objectors, tailors, and winemakers. He commonly appears on horseback and is shown cutting his cloak in half with a sword.

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