

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Thursday, Eighth Week in Ordinary Time**

**It is inner stillness that will save and transform the world.**

(Eckhart Tolle)

### **1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12**

Peter reminds us that the kindness of God is an incentive and an obligation to make sincere efforts to live a good Christian life. God has called us out of darkness into light, out of fear into mercy and out of slavery in sin into the freedom of grace. We have a noble calling and we must be faithful to that calling.

### **Psalm 100**

**Sing joyfully to the Lord all you lands;  
Serve the Lord with gladness;  
Come before him with joyful songs.**

### **Mark 10:46-52**

The blind man, unaffected by the demands of the crowd to keep quiet, called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" Nothing could stop Bartimeus – he was determined to meet the one person who, he believed could do something about his problem – he persisted.

A blind man had an insight! He saw Jesus for what and who he was and called him "Jesus, Son of David". The prophets and the wise men of old had prophesied: "the blind will see, the deaf will hear..."

Jesus saw the inside of the man...he saw the "inside story" of the man and he called this blind man's vision, "faith" and he said, "Go on your way; your faith has saved you." Bartimeus, the blind man had a new vision.....he saw...he believed and he followed Jesus.

**Try to make this your prayer this week: "Master, I want to see".**

**Open yourself to the Lord. Let him open your eyes...the eyes of your mind and your heart.....let him help you see yourself better, see the world more positively and creatively and the Lord more fully....**

**Saint of the day, May 28 - Venerable Pierre Toussaint and 13 other saints are remembered this day.**

Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1766-1853) was born into slavery in 1766, in present day Haiti, and in 1853 he died a free man in New York City. His life journey between these dates demonstrated his love and compassion for his neighbor as he embraced Christ's commandment to love one another.

In 1787 Pierre and his sister arrived in New York City with his master and his wife when they emigrated there from Haiti. Pierre was about 21 years old at the time, and his master sent him to a hairdresser as an apprentice. Pierre soon became a talented hairdresser and was in great demand. In 1791, Pierre's master died, and his widow Marie was left without much income. Filled with compassion for her, Pierre decided to stay and care for her. His substantial income was enough to purchase his sister's freedom and pay the household bills. Just before she died in 1807, Marie gave Pierre his own freedom.

This was the time when he took the last name "Toussaint" in honor of a hero of the Haitian revolution. Toussaint was a faithful Catholic and attended daily Mass regularly. He freely and generously gave most of his earnings to the poor of New York. He married in 1811, and he and his wife bought a large house and opened it to many black orphans whom they educated and taught trades. Pierre donated to various charities, generously assisting blacks and whites in need. They purchased the freedom of many slaves and aided French refugees. They cared for the sick, including those taken ill in the yellow fever epidemics. In his later years, Toussaint would not retire, as he said, "I have enough for myself, but if I stop working I have not enough for others." Toussaint died in 1853. An admirer called Toussaint, "God's reflection in ebony." Pope John Paul I declared Pierre Toussaint venerable in 1996.

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