

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

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

**Want to be serene? Nurture joyfulness.**

### **1 Peter 1:10-16**

Peter encourages his readers to live sober lives, attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. He challenges all his readers to live lives of holiness in every “aspect of your conduct, after the likeness of the Holy One who called you”.

### **Psalm 98**

**Sing to the Lord a new song,  
For he has done wondrous deeds;  
His right hand has won victory for him,  
His holy arm.**

### **Mark 10:28-31**

Jesus had talked about the difficulty of a person to enter the kingdom when his trust is in himself and his possessions. Peter was quick to raise the question about what was in it for those who gave up family and possessions. Jesus’ response to Peter was that sacrifice for the sake of the “Good News” will bring a hundredfold reward now and in the eternal life.

**Following the way of Jesus involved renunciation, sacrifice, loss of home, friends, loved ones. But the follower was brought into a larger and wider family and circle of friends. Renunciation for the sake of the kingdom brought the person into a new relationship beyond family and the circle of friends.**

Jesus warned them that following him would involve suffering and persecution. Jesus was definitely taking away the idea of a material reward for a material sacrifice. He called for sacrifice for the sake of the Kingdom and not for the sake of material reward.

**Jesus did not offer a material reward or honor or important position. Jesus offered eternal life and nothing less. And eternal life is worth all the sacrifice.**

**Jesus also warned them that those who are first the world’s eyes, those with honor and praise in the world, are not necessarily first in the Kingdom. God alone knows the motives of our hearts.**

## **Saint of the day, May 26 - St. Philip Neri and 19 other saints are remembered this day.**

Philip was born into a noble family in Florence, Italy, on July 21, 1515. He received his early education from the friars at San Marco, the famous Dominican monastery in Florence.

At the age of 18, Philip was sent to his uncle, Romolo, a wealthy merchant at San Germano to assist him in his business, and with the hope that he might inherit his uncle's fortune. He gained Romolo's confidence and affection, but soon after coming to San Germano Philip had a religious conversion. From then onward, he no longer cared for things of the world and decided to live in Rome and began to talk to people on the streets about Jesus. For thirteen years Philip ministered on the streets and had a following of many, including the rich and the poor. So great was his ministry that he formed a group of laypersons that would meet for prayer, faith sharing, and service.

Philip had studied philosophy and theology for three years, but he had given up the idea of being a priest. However, at the urging of his confessor, he was ordained in 1551. Some of his followers also became priests, and they lived together in community. This was the beginning of the Oratory, the religious institute he founded. The Oratory was finally approved after suffering through a period of accusations of being an assembly of heretics, where laypersons preached and sang vernacular hymns!

As a priest, Philip was an outstanding confessor, and his advice was sought by many, including royalty and the clergy. He was influential in converting many of the influential people within the Church itself to personal holiness. Philip's advice was sought by many of the prominent figures of his day. He is one of the influential figures of the Counter-Reformation, mainly for converting to personal holiness many of the influential people within the Church itself.

Philip Neri died on May 25, 1595, the Feast of Corpus Christi that year, after having spent the day hearing confessions and receiving visitors. He was canonized by Pope Gregory XV in 1622

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