

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Fifth Week of Lent

**Create a space of silence, stillness and serenity in your heart
and from this space, make all your decisions.**

Genesis 17:3-9

Abraham had to uproot himself from the old culture and give humanity a new start. He had to be renamed, go through “radical change”, to become the father of a “multitude”. Through this process, he would achieve the “immortality” which the builders of Babel desired: his soul would expand and grow in his descendants who would influence the world. But it was God who was doing it and Abraham just had to be faithful, obedient.

Be open to change! But be obedient! Be faithful!

Psalm 105

**Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name;
Make known among the nations his deeds.
Sing to him, sing his praise; proclaim all his wondrous deeds.**

John 8:51-59

“If anyone keeps my word, he will not see death for ever”. “keeping the word” refers to faithfulness, obedience born out of intimate relationship. The person who is faithful to the “Word” has entered into an intimate relationship with God, a relationship which neither time nor eternity can sever - death has lost its finality. He does not move from life to death, but from life to life, death is only the welcome into the fullness of life, into the intimate “presence of God”. **Keep the word! Be faithful! And don't forget, honor your word as well!**

Jesus claims a unique knowledge of God. He claims to know God as no one else has ever known or ever will. In and through Jesus we come to the very “heart” of God. In him we see our God made visible. In Jesus, we see a “unique obedience” to God. In Jesus we come to know and understand the real meaning and value of “obedience”. In him, we come to know what God wants us to be and to do. **Discipleship demands obedience! Fidelity and Obedience show strength of character.**

In you, the world around you must see signs of the presence of a loving, caring, compassionate God.

Saint of the Day, March 26 - St. Catherine of Genoa and 17 other saints are remembered this day

Catherine was born in Genoa in 1447, the last of five children of Jacopo Fieschi and Francesca di Negro, members of the nobility in Genoa. At 13, she attempted to become a nun but failed because of her age. After this Catherine appears to have put the idea aside without any further attempt. At 16, she married Julian, a nobleman who turned out to be selfish and unfaithful. For a while she tried to deal with her disappointment by a life of selfish pleasure.

One day in confession she had a new sense of her own sins and how much God loved her. She reformed her life and gave good example to Julian, who soon turned from his self-centered life to a life of generosity. Julian's spending, however, had ruined them financially. He and Catherine decided to dedicate themselves to works of charity in a large hospital in Genoa. After Julian's death in 1497, Catherine took over management of the hospital. She wrote about purgatory which, she said, begins on earth for souls open to God. Life with God in heaven is a continuation and perfection of the life with God begun on earth. She died on September 15, 1510, exhausted by her life of self-sacrifice and was canonized in 1737.

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