

MORNING MEDITATION

Saint Simon and Jude, Apostles

**The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive,
but in finding a purpose to live for and die for.**

Ephesians 2:19-22

Paul tells the Ephesians that they belong in the household of God...they are not aliens; they are fellow citizens with the saints. We are fitted together with the apostles, prophets and all the saints to become a dwelling place for God in the spirit.

Reflect on the “dignity and honor” of being called to belong in the household of God with all the saints.

Psalms 19

**The heavens declare the glory of God,
And the firmament proclaims his handiwork.....**

**May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart,
Find favor in your sight O, God.....**

Luke 6:12-16

Jesus, after a night in prayer, chose a group of twelve men and trusted them with his mission. His Life and Message must be lived out in fellowship. The Pharisees always isolated themselves from the people –Pharisee meant “separated”. The message of Jesus is to be lived in fellowship, in Community.

Jesus chose a strange group of 12. A group of extremes met and shared their Master’s Vision and Mission. With Jesus they could transcend cultural, ideological, etc. barriers and live in fellowship and communion.

The most diverse type of people must live together in fellowship and fulfill a mission, which is far greater than all of them put together.

He chose very ordinary people, men without any special qualification. Jesus called them to be with him and to be sent out on his mission. He gave them a message, a power, a lifestyle, a presence and community to live in and care for. He gave them his mission to complete and fulfill. Today, we are called to complete His mission!

Saint of the Day, October 28 - Apostles Simon and Jude and 15 other saints are remembered on this day.

Scriptures tells us very little about these two apostles. Luke's Gospel tells us that Simon was a zealot. Zealots were a group of radicals who hated the Romans and were fanatic nationalists. Jesus chose him to be an apostle and legend tells us that he proclaimed the Gospel in Egypt. In the Gospel of Mathew and Mark, Jude is called Thaddeus. We call him Jude to distinguish him from Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus. Legend has it that he went to Persia to proclaim the Gospel.

Thaddeus (from Greek Thaddaios and from Aramaic Taddai) means a heart or courageous heart. As of the 1990 Census, 'Thaddeus' was the 611th most popular male name in the United States, while 'Thad', its diminutive version, was the 846th most popular

Today's feast comes just before "All Saints Day". There used to be a custom today to go from door to door begging for the ingredients of "soul cakes" which were eaten in early November as a way of sharing a meal with the dead. People would sing, "For the love of Simon and Jude, give us fixings for our food".

It would be wonderful if we could listen to the same song today, "give us fixings for our food". Many of our brothers and sisters sing this song out of their desperate need. Let "All Saints Day" become a joyful day for us and let it bring us into communion with those whose lives are not as joyful as ours.

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