

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Second Week of Lent

Simplicity may be achieved only through patient and disciplined efforts.

Daniel 9:4-10

Daniel made a corporate act of contrition because the whole nation had broken the covenant. He called on the Mercy of an “awesome God who keeps his merciful covenant”. **God is faithful to Himself and to his covenant even when His people are unfaithful. Our call is to be godlike. Be faithful even when others are not faithful. Let not your faithfulness depend on other’s faithfulness or the lack of it.**

Psalm 79

**Lord, do not deal with us as our sins deserve,
May your compassion quickly come to us!
Deliver us and pardon our sins,
For your name’s sake.**

Luke 6:36-38

Jesus taught his disciples to be compassionate. He called them and now, he calls us to live a very high standard of life: “Be Compassionate as the father is compassionate”. This is the standard for the disciples: they must do more and be more than the pagans; they must do that “extra thing”. What special grace is there in doing what even the ungodly may do, Jesus asked?

How much better are you than the ordinary person who has not been enlightened, awakened, educated, blessed, spirited, baptized and anointed?

Do not judge, Jesus said. It is not our neighbor that we must judge. It is not our neighbor with whom we must compare ourselves. It is with God and His ways and that is the challenge. The rationale, the motivation for all these is that they make us “godlike” people. We reflect God’s nature - in God’s image we are made. God sends His rain on the just and the unjust; God is kind to the one who is kind and kind to the one who is unkind; God embraces the saint and the sinner as well.

We are called to love as we have been loved.....We are called to forgive as we have been forgiven.....We called to give as we have been given.....We are called to bless as we have been blessed!

Saint of the Day, March 14 - St. Matilda of Saxony and 8 other saints are remembered this day.

Matilda was born in 895 C.E. at Engern, Westphalia, Germany. She was the daughter of Count Dietrich of Westphalia and Reinhild of Denmark. She was raised by her grandmother, the Abbess of Eufurt convent. She left the abbey in 913 and got married to King Henry the Fowler of Saxony. She was well known for her generosity, teaching the ignorant, comforting the sick, visiting prisoners, etc.. After Henry's death, she was betrayed by Otto, her son, when he falsely accused her of financial mismanagement and extravagant charities. She devoted herself to building three convents and a monastery. She was left in charge of the kingdom when Otto went to Rome to be crowned Emperor (often regarded as the beginning of the Holy Roman Empire), and spent most of the declining years of her life at the convent at Nordhausen she had built. She died at the monastery at Quedlinburg on March 14, 968.

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