

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Monday, Second Week of Lent**

**Find serenity within by accepting God's plan and purpose for you.**

### **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., to forgive as we have been forgiven, to give as we have been given, to bless as we have been blessed.....**

## **Saint of the Day, March 2 - St. Agnes of Bohemia and 10 other saints are remembered this day.**

Agnes of Bohemia, also known as Agnes of Prague was born on June 20, 1211. She was the daughter of Queen Constance and King Ottokar I of Bohemia. She was betrothed to the Duke of Silesia, who died three years later. As she grew up, she decided she wanted to enter the religious life.

After declining marriages to King Henry VII of Germany and King Henry III of England, Agnes was faced with a proposal from Frederick II, the Holy Roman Emperor. She appealed to Pope Gregory IX for help. The pope was persuasive; Frederick magnanimously said that he could not be offended if Agnes preferred the King of Heaven to him.

After Agnes built a hospital for the poor and a residence for the friars, she financed the construction of a Poor Clare monastery in Prague. In 1236, she and seven other noblewomen entered this monastery. Saint Clare sent five sisters from San Damiano to join them and wrote Agnes four letters advising her on the beauty of her vocation and her duties as abbess.

Agnes became known for prayer, obedience and mortification. Papal pressure forced her to accept her election as abbess, nevertheless, the title she preferred was "senior sister." Her position did not prevent her from cooking for the other sisters and mending the clothes of lepers. The sisters found her kind but very strict regarding the observance of poverty; she declined her royal brother's offer to set up an endowment for the monastery. Agnes lived out her life in the cloister, leading the monastery as abbess, until her death on March 2, 1282.

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