

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday of Holy Week

Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.

(John F. Kennedy)

Isaiah 42:1-7

The servant is raised up to proclaim justice, a time of deliverance. Isaiah describes this servant as having the finest qualities of Israel and her great leaders: noble, gentle and wise. **Learn to be noble, gentle and wise!**

Psalm 27

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted and wait for the Lord.

John 12:1-11

Jesus attended a banquet in the home of Lazarus in Bethany. Martha served. How wonderful! Martha is at it again. She is a serving disciple. She expressed her love the way she knew best - serving and serving in the kitchen, not on a public platform or in a career lived in the eyes of men. **Service without notice...just with simple, profound, pure love! Be a serving disciple, but serve with love!**

Mary was different. Her love didn't calculate the cost. She took the precious thing she had and spent it on Jesus - love's extravagance! **Love give all there is to give.....**

It was an honor to anoint someone's head. Mary anointed the feet of Jesus. She wasn't seeking honor. She just loved and served the best way she knew. She humbled herself in service and in care. **Serve without seeking to be honored.....**

"The house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment". What else? Martha's service and Mary's anointing - the house had to be filled with love.....**Love has its own fragrance and it has a way of transforming the air.....**

Judas couldn't appreciate such love. He saw "extravagant waste" and nothing more. Hearts that are full of greed and jealousy and bitterness and such slings and arrows can not see and appreciate love and all love's expressions.

Learn to appreciate the simple and the profound signs and expressions of love all around you.

Saint of the Day, April 14 - St. Lydwine and 9 other saints are remembered this day.

Lidwina was born on April 18, 1380 in Schiedam, Holland. She was one of nine children of a working man. At age 15, she was ice skating when she fell and broke a rib. She never recovered and became progressively disabled for the rest of her life. Her biographers state that she became paralyzed except for her left hand and that great pieces of her body fell off, and that blood poured from her mouth, ears, and nose. Today some posit that Saint Lidwina is one of the first known multiple sclerosis patients and attribute her disability to the effects of the disease and her fall.

After her fall, Lidwina fasted continuously and acquired fame as a healer and holy woman. The town officials of Schiedam, her hometown, promulgated a document (which has survived) that attests to her complete lack of food and sleep. At first, she ate a little piece of apple, then a bit of date and watered wine, then river water contaminated with salt from the tides. The authenticating document from Schiedam also attests that Lidwina shed skin, bones, parts of her intestines, which her parents kept in a vase and which gave off a sweet odor. These excited so much attention that Lidwina had her mother bury them. Lidwina died at the age of 53. She is known as the patron saint of ice skaters.

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