

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

**The most wonderful taste of serenity is found
by the love you create for yourself, and those around you.**

James 1:1-11

James encouraged his community to rejoice at the opportunity to endure trials. He says that enduring trials makes a person grow to spiritual maturity. He encouraged them to pray, with faith, for God's wisdom. He invited his readers to accept the opportunity for being humble and joyful in poverty as well as in wealth.

Pray for God's wisdom to be humble, grateful and joyful in poverty as well as in wealth.

Psalm 119

**The law of your mouth to me is more precious
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.
I know, O Lord, that your ordinances are just,
And in your faithfulness, you have afflicted me....**

Mark 8:11-13

The Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign that will substantiate his claim. Jesus refused to give a sign. The tendency of the age in which Jesus lived was to look for God in the abnormal, in extraordinary events. They believed that when the messiah came the most startling things would happen. This is the kind of sign the Pharisees were looking for. They looked for events that would defy the laws of nature.

To Jesus the whole world was full of signs – the corn in the corn field, the leaven in the loaf, the lilies of the field, the sparrows in the air, the fishes in the sea – God did not have to break in from outside the world. He was in the world for anyone who had eyes to see.

Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he, who sees, takes off his shoes,
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries." (Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

Look beyond what you see! The daily miracles of night and day and the beauty of all common things proclaim simply and purely the presence of God.....

Saint of the Day, February 16 – St. Daniel and 17 other saints are remembered this day.

Daniel and four companions, Elias, Isaias, Jeremy and Samuel were Egyptians who visited Christians condemned to work in the mines of Cilicia during Maximus persecution, to comfort them. Apprehended at the gates of Caesarea, Palestine, they were brought before the governor, Firmilian and accused of being Christians. They were all tortured and then beheaded. When Porphyry, a servant of St. Pamphilus demanded that the bodies be buried, he was tortured and then burned to death when it was found he was a Christian. Seleucus witnessed his death and applauded his constancy in the face of his terrible death; whereupon he was arrested by the soldiers involved in the execution, brought before the governor and was beheaded at Firmilian's order. They all died in 309 C.E.

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