

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Friday, Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time**

**One of the most basic source of peacefulness and serenity is the acceptance of self with all its imperfections, limitations, weaknesses as well as goodness and strength.**

### **2 Kings 25:1-12**

The Babylonian armies open the siege of Jerusalem. Zedekiah's sons were executed, and he was taken to Babylon in chains. The land is completely devastated, and the population reduced to a few thousands.

**Failure to listen to prophetic voices brings disastrous consequences.**

### **Psalm 137**

By the streams of Babylon  
we sat and wept  
when we remembered Zion.  
On the aspens of that land  
we hung up our harps.

### **Mathew 8:1-4**

Mathew tells us that after a long period of teaching on the mountain, Jesus came down and met a leper who requested to be healed. And Jesus healed him.

This was healing from the disease that reduced the human person to "disintegration" and "alienation". This was healing that brought wholeness and integrity.

This is compassion that goes far beyond the law and the requirements - Compassion that reaches out to the other - never draws the other to self.

This is Jesus living out what he just taught. He had taught the disciples to be faithful, to mean what they say, to practice what they preach. Mathew says, at the close of chapter seven, that people were spellbound because Jesus taught with authority. This is the authority that Mathew speaks of, the authority of his person – Jesus was what he said, what he taught and what he proclaimed....compassion in word and in action, in real life.

**Be compassionate as the heavenly Father is compassionate!**

**Saint of the Day, June 26 - St. Anthelm and 19 other saints are remembered this day.**

Anthelm was born in 1107 in a castle near Chambery, in Savoy, France. He was ordained a priest and visited the Carthusian Charterhouse at Portes, where he entered the Order at the age of thirty. Two years later, in 1139, he was appointed abbot of Le Grande Chartreuse, which had been damaged. He was an effective administrator there. While under his direction, the community increased in numbers and fervency. He restored and improved the buildings, including constructing a defensive wall and an aqueduct. The rules of the order were standardized and changed to allow women the opportunity to enter the order in their own houses. He also brought the other houses of the order into closer alignment with the motherhouse.

Anthelm continued in his office almost constantly for twenty-four years, barring a period of a few years when he was a hermit. After a few years as a hermit, starting in 1152, Anthelm returned to Le Grande Chartreuse and defended Pope Alexander III against the antipope Victor IV. In 1163, the pope appointed him as bishop of Belley, France. Anthelm reformed the clergy and regulated affairs, going as far as to excommunicate a local noble, Count Humbert of Maurienne, who had taken one priest captive and murdered another priest trying to free him. When Humbert appealed to Rome and won a reversal, Anthelm left Belley in protest. Pope Alexander then sent Anthelm to England to mediate the dispute between Henry II and St. Thomas Becket. Anthelm was unable to undertake that journey. He returned to Belley to care for the poor and for the local lepers. Anthelm died on June 26, 1178.

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