

MORNING MEDITATION

St. James, the Apostle

Change what cannot be accepted and accept what cannot be changed.

(Reinhold Niebuhr)

2 Corinthians 4:7-15

“We possess a treasure in earthen vessels to make it clear that it’s surpassing power comes from God and not from us”

Psalms 126

**When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion,
We were like men dreaming.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
And our tongues with rejoicing.**

Matthew 20:20-28

The mother of James (and John) was curious about whether he would be able to sit beside Jesus in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus told her that “sitting beside” was a gift from the father. It is up to him now to surrender in service. First rank goes to those who surrender themselves in service!!! “Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest and whoever wants to rank first must serve the needs of all”. Pray that you may have the courage and the wisdom to surrender in service.

Saint of the Day, 25 - St. James, Apostle and 12 other saints are remembered this day

James and his brother John were sons of Zebedee, fishermen from Galilee. Before Jesus called them to discipleship, they were followers of St. John the Baptist. Jesus called the two of them to be fishers of men and they followed. James had become special in the company of the disciples. James was present at many of the miracles of Jesus, at the transfiguration of Jesus and in the garden of Gethsemane on the night of the last supper. He was brought into the home of Jairus to witness Jesus restore life to a girl who had recently died, and on the night before Jesus was crucified, Jesus asked Peter, James, and John to keep watch while he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.

James and John are shown to be bull-headed. When Jesus and his disciples were poorly treated in a Samaritan town, they suggested that they ask God to strike the town with fire from heaven. Jesus rebuked the two and called them to be tolerant. They were given the name “Sons of Thunder” by Jesus to acknowledge their impetuous

personalities. They didn't understand the mission of Jesus and the nature of the Kingdom He proclaimed. According to the 12th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, James was the first of the twelve to be martyred. King Herod Agrippa had James captured and beheaded In Jerusalem, in the year 44 A.D.

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