

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Saturday, Eighth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Free from all thoughts of 'I' and 'mine', a man finds absolute peace.**

**(Bhagavad Gita)**

### **Jude 17:20-25**

Jude advises his readers to pray in the holy Spirit and to persevere in the Love of God. He encourages us to correct one another and be a support to one another. God will protect us and we must protect those in our care.

### **Psalm 63**

**O God, you are my God whom I seek,  
For you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts;  
Like the earth parched, lifeless and without water.**

### **Mark 11:27-33**

A delegation of chief priests, elders and experts in the law came to Jesus and asked him about the source of his authority. They had hoped to catch him making some statement that could incriminate him. If he said he acted on his own authority they could arrest him for being delusional and if he said he acted on God's authority they could arrest him on blasphemy. They thought, either way, they had him trapped.

Instead of answering their questions, Jesus confronted them with a set of his own questions. He asked them where the baptism of John the Baptist came from. If they said John's Baptism had divine origin, they would have to explain why they rejected him. If they said it was of human origin, they would have to fear the people who had accepted him as a martyr. Their answer was that they did not know. Jesus refused to answer misguided, stubborn people.

**This excerpt challenges us to remain open and docile to the Holy Spirit; to remain open to accepting the truth as it is being revealed to us; be to honest in our search for truth; to be cautious of those who are misguided; to be aware of those who ask tricky, dishonest questions and to be fearless in the face oppositions.**

**Saint of the day, May 30 - St. Joan of Arc and 15 other saints are remembered this day.**

Joan of Arc was born in the year 1412 into a peasant family at Domrémy in northeast France. She is nicknamed "The Maid of Orléans" and is considered a heroine of France for her role during the Lancastrian phase of the Hundred Years' War. Joan claimed to have received visions of the archangel Michael, Saint Margaret, and Saint Catherine of Alexandria instructing her to support Charles VII and recover France from English domination late in the Hundred Years' War. The unanointed King Charles VII sent Joan to the Siege of Orléans as part of a relief army. She gained prominence after the siege was lifted only nine days later. Several additional swift victories led to Charles VII's consecration at Reims. This long-awaited event boosted French morale and paved the way for the final French victory.

On May 23, 1430, she was captured at Compiègne by the Burgundian faction, a group of French nobles allied with the English. She was later handed over to the English and put on trial by the pro-English bishop Pierre Cauchon on a variety of charges. After Cauchon declared her guilty, she was burned at the stake on May 30, 1431, dying around nineteen years of age.

In 1456, an inquisitorial court authorized by Pope Callixtus III examined the trial, debunked the charges against her, pronounced her innocent, and declared her a martyr. In the 16th century she became a symbol of the Catholic League, and in 1803 she was declared a national symbol of France by the decision of Napoleon Bonaparte. She was beatified in 1909 and canonized in 1920. Joan of Arc has remained a popular figure in literature, painting, sculpture, and other cultural works since the time of her death, and many famous writers, playwrights, filmmakers, artists, and composers have created, and continue to create, cultural depictions of her.

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