

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity comes from saying “yes” to all that is of God and from God.

2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17

David ordered a census of the Israelites. Later he regretted it because he felt that it was testing the Lord. When plague broke out among the people, David saw it as a punishment from God for testing him. He pleaded with God to punish him rather than his people because the crime was his.

It is a holy thing to acknowledge your guilt and seek forgiveness and make amends!

Psalm 32

**Happy is he, whose fault is taken away,
Whose sin is covered.
Happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
In whose spirit there is not guile.**

Mark 6:1-6

They admired the eloquence of Jesus but rejected his message. And what they rejected was “GOOD NEWS” - liberty to captives, sight to the blind - a year of Grace. They failed to look beyond. Hence, they saw only a local carpenter.

Lord, help me to look beyond what I see. Give me a clearer and deeper vision of your presence in all that I encounter on my journey of life.

Prejudice blinds the mind and narrows the heart.

Lord, give me the wisdom to recognize and accept my own prejudices and the courage to overcome them.

To his own people he came. But they did not accept him. Jesus went about doing good and teaching and proclaiming good news in the neighboring villages.

Lord, empower me with your Holy spirit, that I may proclaim your good news.

Saint of the day, February 4 - St. John de Britto and 19 other saints are remembered this day.

John de Britto was born on March 1, 1647 to a noble Portugese family in Lisbon. His father died while serving as Viceroy of Brazil. At the age of fifteen, he joined the Society of Jesus. Against the strenuous objections of his family, he volunteered for the missions in India in 1673, and was sent to Madura. He studied the complex Indian caste system and found that most converts belonged to the lowest caste. He realized that for Christianity to have a lasting influence in India, higher caste members must also convert. He worked in Malabar, Tanjore, Marava, and Madura. He established himself as an Indian ascetic, a Pandara Suami, lived as they lived, dressed in saffron cloak and turban, and held retreats in the wilderness in southern India where interested Indians could visit him.

Though the practice of Catholicism was not illegal in India, John was hated by many because of his faith. He and his followers were often subjected to agonizing torture, but each time John miraculously recovered. In 1683, John was banished from India to Portugal. He returned soon after and continued his ministry for three more years. In 1693, he was again arrested, tortured and once more commanded to leave India. When he refused, John was sentenced to death. On February 4, John de Britto was executed. As he knelt at the execution block, the rajah's order of death was read aloud. The executioner hesitated, but John said to him, "My friend, I have prayed to God. On my part, I have done what I should do. Now do your part." John de Britto was canonized in 1947.

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