

MORNING MEDITATION

Saint Jerome

Simplify your life! Getting rid of everything that does not matter allows you to remember who you are.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Paul reminds Timothy to have faith in his teachers and trust in the Scriptures, the inspired word of God.

Psalm 119

How can the young keep his way without fault?
Only by observing your words.
With all my heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.
In my heart I treasure your promise,
that I may not sin against you.

Mathew 13:47-52

Once again, Jesus used examples from daily work situations to speak about the kingdom and the things of heaven. The kingdom was compared to a net cast into the sea which gathers all kinds of things. The net was drawn to land and the catch was separated – the good was put into containers and the useless material thrown away.

The net thrown into the sea cannot discriminate...it draws all kinds of things, its contents will be a mixture... it is the nature of the kingdom on earth...all kinds of people, the good, the bad, the useful, the useless and so on. It describes the nature of the kingdom and the nature of the Church as all inclusive. The Church must remain open to all.

The parable also teaches us that eventually, separation will happen...good will be separated from the bad. Jesus said, “Angels will come” for the separation. Judgments must be left to God and it is not ours to make.

Cultivate non-judgmental attitude! Reflect on the all-embracing love God.

Saint of the Day, September 30 - Saint Jerome and 17 other saints are remembered this day

Jerome was born in Dalmatia, along the coast of the Adriatic Sea around the year 347 and

was educated in Rome. He had developed a passion for books and began a collection of expensive books. After completing his education, he lived as a hermit in the Syrian Desert for five years. Pope Damasus invited him to be his secretary. In Rome he preached many sermons which made the wealthy uncomfortable and angry. He began a Bible study group for women, which was the first Bible study group that we know of. He believed that contact with Scripture would transform the lives of people.

After the death of Pope Damasus, he went to the Holy land and settled in Bethlehem where he lived for the rest of his life. Paula, from the first bible study group, became a brilliant scholar and followed Jerome to Bethlehem. Many others also followed them and settled in Bethlehem. Paula and Jerome founded two monasteries, one for men and the other for women and a Church shared by both.

In Bethlehem, Jerome devoted his life to study and meditation. Assisted by Paula and others, he translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin. This translation was called the Vulgate, from the Latin word for “the common people”. This translation was used for many centuries.

Jerome was always kind to the needy. When Rome was attacked in the year 410, many refugees came to the East to the monasteries. Jerome laid aside his studies to serve them saying, “Today, we must translate the words of scripture into deeds and instead of speaking saintly words, we must act on them.”

He died in Bethlehem around the year 420.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs