

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Second Week of Lent

**Purpose is the song our hearts sing,
resonating through the chambers of our soul.**

Daniel 9:4-10

Daniel made a corporate act of contrition because the whole nation had broken the covenant. He called on the Mercy of an “awesome God who keeps his merciful covenant”. God is faithful to Himself and to his covenant even when His people are unfaithful. Our call is to be godlike.

Be faithful even when others are not faithful. Let not your faithfulness depend on other’s faithfulness or the lack of it.

Psalm 79

**Lord, do not deal with us as our sins deserve,
May your compassion quickly come to us!
Deliver us and pardon our sins,
For your name’s sake.**

Luke 6:36-38

Jesus taught his disciples to be compassionate. He called them and now, he calls us to live a very high standard of life: “Be Compassionate as the father is compassionate”. This is the standard for the disciples: they must do more and be more than the pagans; they must do that “extra thing”. What special grace is there in doing what even the ungodly may do, Jesus asked?

How much better are you than the ordinary person who has not been enlightened, awakened, educated, blessed, spirited, baptized and anointed?

Do not judge, Jesus said. It is not our neighbor that we must judge. It is not our neighbor with whom we must compare ourselves. It is with God and His ways and that is the challenge. The rationale, the motivation for all these is that they make us “godlike” people. We reflect God’s nature - in God’s image we are made. God sends His rain on the just and the unjust; God is kind to the one who is kind and kind to the one who is unkind; God embraces the saint and the sinner as well.

We are called to love as we have been loved.....We are called to forgive as we

have been forgiven.....We called to give as we have been given.....We are called to bless as we have been blessed!

Saint of the Day, March 17 – Saint Patrick and six other saints are remembered this day.

Details of Patrick's life are uncertain. His birth may have been around the year 384 C.E. in Roman Britain to Christian parents. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. His birth name was Maewyn. At the age of 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold. Ireland was a pagan land, and during his time as a slave, Maewyn prayed often, and his Christian faith grew stronger.

When he was 20 years old, he had a dream that God instructed him to go to the coast and escape from Ireland. Maewyn went to the coast where he found sailors who would take him home. A few years later, he had a vision of a man coming from Ireland and giving him a letter from "Voice of the Irish" appealing to him "to come and walk among us." This vision prompted him to become a priest. Later he was ordained a bishop, and Pope Celestine I renamed him Patrick. As a bishop, he returned to Ireland to preach God's Word. He first converted the clan chieftains and by their influence the rest of the clansmen. St. Patrick converted thousands to Christianity, and he began building churches across Ireland. He converted all of Ireland in the 40 years he was there. He died in 461A.D. He is the Patron Saint of Ireland.

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