

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Second Week of Lent

Those who practice forbearance are able to live in situations that are not under their control.

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, February 26 - St. Isabel of France and 7 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint Isabel was born in 1271 to the King of Aragon, Spain. Baptized Elizabeth, after her great-aunt, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, she was known in her own country by the Spanish form of that name, Isabella. At 12 years of age, she was married to Denis, King of Portugal.

She divided her day between prayer and devotions, domestic duties, public affairs, service to others, especially to those in need. She sought out the poor and unfortunate to help them; and established institutions throughout her kingdom, especially hospitals and orphanages, to aid those she could not personally reach.

She continued to love and respect her husband, bearing his neglect and infidelity with great patience. Denis, though a good ruler, was a bad subject; just, brave, generous, and compassionate in public life, but in his private relations, selfish and extravagant. When he fell seriously ill, she was constantly at his bedside. It may well have been her prayers and faithful devotion that brought about his sincere repentance before his death some months later. Denis and Isabel had two children, Alfonso and Constance. Alfonso succeeded his father as King.

Though Isabel retired to live a life of simplicity in a small home, she was often called upon to settle disputes between the rulers of that day. Her gentle nature and ability to reconcile prevented a great deal of bloodshed. In fact she was on another errand of reconciliation when, overcome by age and the extreme heat, she died on July 4, 1336.

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