

MORNING MEDITATION

Saint Mathias, Apostle

A fulfilling life is achieved by pursuing a noble and worthy purpose.

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

Judas, the betrayer of Jesus became desperate and hung himself. This excerpt tells us that about 120 followers of Jesus gathered and prayerfully discerned and chose Mathias to take the place of Judas. It is amazing to remember that it is from these small group of 120 that the message of Jesus spread all over the world.

Psalm 113

Praise you servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, both now and forever.

**From the rising to the setting of the sun,
is the name of the Lord to be praised.**

John 15:9-17

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.....Abide in my love.....that my joy may be yours and your joy may be complete."

The secret of the life of Jesus was his contact with the Father. Again and again, he withdrew to quiet places to be alone with the father. He knew what it meant to "abide" in the Father's Love. His disciples must do the same.

To "abide" is: to be in close contact, to be in touch; to be intimate; to live an intense, personal relationship; to surrender in fidelity; to surrender in obedience.

**Stay focused on developing a personal, intense, intimate relationship with the Lord.
Stay close...stay connected...be in touch.....**

Abide in the presence of the Lord, in silence and in solitude.....Speak to the Lord from the depth of your heart.....

Love one another as I have loved you (John 15:12-17) It is a challenge to reach out to others in love - "not to withhold" our love from others. We are called to give what we have received as gifts from the Lord. Jesus calls us his friends, not slaves....it was his choice, not ours. Now it is up to us to respond. It is never sufficient to abstain from wrong-doing or sin or evil. We are called to be good and to do good - a good word and a

good deed proclaim who we are. We have many opportunities to share God's gift of Love and life.

The standard of love is NOT an eye for an eye or love others as they love us or love others as we love ourselves...it is "Love one another as I have loved you". The standard is to love as God loves us, as Jesus loves us.....it is joyful, unconditional, unconquerable, invincible, non-possessive, self-sacrificing, enduring, steadfast love! May your love transcend competition and control...May your love transcend ill feelings, jealousies, hatred, etc....May you reach out in selfless and generous service!

Saint of the Day, May 14 - Saint Matthias and 10 other saints are remembered this day.

There is no mention of a Matthias among the lists of apostles or disciples of Jesus in the three synoptic gospels, but according to Acts, he had been with Jesus from his baptism by John until his Ascension. According to Acts 1:15-26, during the days after the Ascension Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers -about 120 of Jesus' followers. Now that Judas had betrayed his Jesus, his master, it was necessary, Peter said, to fulfill the scriptural recommendation that another should take his office. "Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection." (Acts 1:21-22).

They nominated two men: Joseph Barsabbas and Matthias. They prayed and drew lots. The choice fell upon Matthias, who was added to the Eleven. Matthias is not mentioned by name anywhere else in the New Testament. The tradition of the Greeks says that Matthias planted the faith about Cappadocia and on the coasts of the Caspian Sea, residing chiefly near the port Issus (modern day Turkey). Other traditions claim that he spread the Gospel in Judea and in Ethiopia where he was stoned to death. Another tradition maintains that Matthias was stoned at Jerusalem by the local populace, and then beheaded. According to Hippolytus of Rome, Matthias died of old age in Jerusalem.

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