

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Twenty Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Simplicity is a spiritual discipline that tames and trains us to choose to live simply and to simplify our preferences and activities.

Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13

This excerpt contains several disconnected wise sayings. At the center of it, the wise man teaches us that doing what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

Psalm 119

**Blessed are they whose way is blameless,
Who walk in the law of the Lord.
Make me understand the way of your precepts,
And I will meditate on your wondrous deeds.**

Luke 8:19-21

Jesus was addressing the crowd and his mother and relatives came to speak with him. When someone told Jesus about it, he said, “who is my mother and who are my brothers.....whoever does the will of my Father is brother and sister and mother to me”.

Jesus spoke of a new kind of relationship...one that goes far beyond blood relationships. Nothing can break the “blood connection” and yet we know that “blood ties” don’t necessarily create a bond of love or dedication or affection. History has shown that often a man’s enemies were those with whom he had “blood ties”.

Real relationships, true connections, bonds of love are established around shared goals, shared ideals, shared conflicts and pains, shared cause, shared obedience/fidelity, etc.

Jesus calls us to enter into a relationship of love and obedience....an obedience that binds us together as brothers and sisters of Jesus, sons and daughters of the heavenly Father. Our common obedience makes us true brothers and sisters.

Saint of the day, September 20 - St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, St. Paul Chong Ha-sang and 8100 saints are remembered this day.

Saint Andrew Kim Taegon generally referred to as Saint Andrew Kim in English, was the first Korean-born Catholic priest and is the patron saint of Korea. Christianity came to Korea during the Japanese invasion in 1592. During this time a small number of Koreans were baptized,

probably by Japanese soldiers who were Christians. Soon after, Korea cut itself off from the rest of the world.

When a Chinese priest secretly arrived about 12 years later, he found 4,000 Catholics who had never seen a priest. Korea's first Christian community was made up entirely of laypeople! Between 1839 and 1867, there were fierce persecutions. One hundred three members of this community were martyred along with three bishops and seven priests from the Paris Foreign Mission Society.

Andrew Kim Taegon was the son of converts, born on August 21, 1821. His father, a farmer, was also martyred. Andrew was baptized when he was 15. He then attended the seminary in Macao, China, 1,300 miles away from home. After six years Andrew returned to Korea and assumed the job of bringing missionaries into the country secretly. Almost immediately he was arrested, tortured, and beheaded on September 16, 1846.

On May 6, 1984, Pope John Paul II canonized Kim along with 102 other Korean Martyrs, including Paul Chong Hasang, during his trip to Korea.

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