

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Third Week of Lent

Because of His steadfast love for us, Jesus suffered and died on the cross.

We follow his way by remaining steadfast in loving as we endure the challenges and hardship of our life.

2 Kings 5:1-15

Naaman, a good man and effective military leader had to surrender to something that he considered "less than" himself to overcome the problems (obstacles) in his life. He had to learn to humble himself before he was freed from his problems. Naaman had two problems in his life: he was a leper and a Syrian. Leprosy was looked on with fear, causing hostility, isolation and separation from the community. Syrians were looked upon with suspicion and fear. Naaman was an outsider, not part of God's chosen people, a man to be feared, to be suspicious of and kept apart from the community. Naaman had to listen to his servant girl, then to more servants and give up his pride in order to be healed. The unclean foreigner was cleansed, and he gave testimony to God and God's power.

Learn to be humble in your ways. Listen and learn to surrender to the Lord. Welcome God's ways with real faith and learn to attempt what seems impossible!

Psalm 42

**As the hind longs for running waters,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
Athirst is my soul for God, the living God,
when shall I go and behold the face of God.**

Luke 4:24-30

Being a Prophet meant many things to many people such as, calling people to purification, a cleansing of life, a conversion of attitude and real repentance; Proclaiming truth; Standing for God and God's law; Calling forth justice; Proclaiming righteousness, God's righteousness; Teaching values; Calling forth virtuous living; Proclaiming unconditional love.....And that is why a Prophet is not acceptable in his own native place.

Learn to listen to the Prophetic voice coming from unexpected sources. Remember, Naaman had to listen to his servants; Abraham had to listen to strangers; Moses had to listen to a burning bush; Mary had to listen to an angel; Joseph had to listen to his

dream; John the Baptist had to listen to a voice from the sky...Let us learn to listen and listen with faith...

Saint of the Day, March 13 - St. Leander of Seville and 16 other saints are remembered this day.

Leander was born at Cartagena, Spain around the year 534. St. Isidore and Fulgentius, both bishops were his brothers, and his sister, Florentina, is also numbered among the saints. Leander's own family was heavily influenced by Arianism, but he himself grew up to be a fervent Christian. He entered a monastery as a young man and spent three years in prayer and study. At the end of that tranquil period he was made a bishop. For the rest of his life he worked strenuously to fight against heresy. The death of the anti-Christian king in 586 helped Leander's cause. He and the new king worked hand in hand to restore orthodoxy and a renewed sense of morality. Leander succeeded in persuading many Arian bishops to change their loyalties. Leander died around 600.

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