

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Monday, Seventh Week of Easter**

**Forbearance is a powerful virtue and a transforming gift.**

### **Acts 19:1-8**

Paul met twelve men at Ephesus, baptized them and confirmed them with the Holy Spirit. They were men who were baptized in the tradition of John the Baptist. Now, filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to spread the good news.

### **Psalm 68**

**The just rejoice and exult before God;  
They are glad and rejoice.  
Sing to God, chant praise to his name;  
His name is the Lord; exult before him.**

### **John 16:29-33**

In this excerpt, John tells us that the disciples finally surrendered! They made a leap of faith! We know! We have seen! We are convinced! You are speaking plainly! We don't even need to ask you! You know our questions before we ask!

Even as the disciples make this great leap of faith, Jesus cautioned them that they would desert him. Jesus knew their weakness, he knew their failure, he knew that they would let him down in the moment of his real need - still he loved them. What is even more amazing is that Jesus knew his men at their worst and still loved them!

**It is a very difficult thing to forgive someone and still trust them. In Jesus, we find a merging of forgiveness and trust. Jesus loved them and trusted them even in their weakness! Jesus teaches us to forgive and to trust the person who is guilty of failure.**

**It is amazing how Jesus was not thinking of how his disciples' failure would hurt him, but how it would hurt them. Love unconditional it is! It is as though he said to them: "I know what's going to happen. Your disloyalty will not come as a shock to me and it does not make any difference to my love. When you think about it afterwards, don't despair". Jesus gave his gift to the disciples: courage and peace.**

**Saint of the Day, May 13 - ) St. Henry and 13 other saints are remembered this day**

St. Henry was born in 972 to Duke Henry of Bavaria and Princess Gisela of Burgundy. During his youth, Henry received both an education and spiritual guidance from bishop Wolfgang of Regensburg who was, eventually, canonized a saint. Henry took on his father's position as Duke of Bavaria in 995, one year after St. Wolfgang's death. The Church supported his accession to the throne as King of Germany in 1002. As king, Henry encouraged the German bishops to reform the practices of the Church in accordance with canon law.

In 1014, the German king journeyed to Rome where Pope Benedict VIII formally crowned him as head of the Holy Roman Empire. The emperor demonstrated his loyalty to the Pope by confirming Benedict VIII's authority over the city of Rome. Henry made his journey from Rome back to Germany into a pilgrimage of sorts, stopping at various monasteries along the way.

Henry became a great patron of churches and monasteries, donating so much of his wealth to them that his relatives complained that he was behaving irresponsibly. He was also a great patron of the poor, making enormous contributions for their relief.

The emperor's extraordinary generosity was made possible in part by his lack of an heir. He was married to a woman who was later canonized as a saint, St. Cunigunde of Luxembourg, but the two had no children.

For the last several years of his life, Henry had to deal with serious illness, and an additional ailment that crippled his left leg, along with his imperial responsibilities. He found support in prayer during these trials, and seriously considered resigning his imperial leadership in order to become a monk. After several years of illness, St. Henry II died in July of 1024. Pope Eugene III canonized him in 1146.

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