

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Tuesday, Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Simplify your life by decluttering non-essential possessions. Too many possessions complicate your lives and drain your funds, energy, and attention.**

### **Ezekiel 2:8 – 3:4**

Ezekiel had an overwhelming experience of God. It would be good to read chapter 2 from beginning to end to get a good sense of the awesomeness of the experience. The scroll with the words, “lamentations and wailing and woe”, was stretched out to him to eat and then go to his people and he did. It was in exile that he heard God’s call and he was overwhelmed by the message he had to deliver and so he did nothing for some time - just sat seven days among the exiles that he was called to serve.

### **Psalm 119**

**In the way of your decrees I rejoice,  
as much as in all riches.  
Yes your decrees are my delight;  
they are my counselors.**

### **Mathew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14**

The disciples wanted to know who was of greatest importance in the kingdom. Jesus responded, unless you turn and become as children, you will not enter the kingdom of God. You are going in the wrong direction, not in the direction of the Kingdom. You are aiming at personal power, prestige, etc. which is the opposite of the Kingdom. Humility is the quality of a person who belongs in the kingdom. Child’s humility, trust, dependence, innocence, purity are qualities of people of the kingdom.

**Reflect on turning toward the Kingdom, away from personal power, prestige, etc.**

Jesus told them the parable the lost sheep. Even one single sheep is precious. The loss of that single sheep is great. The joy of discovering the lost is even greater! So will it be with the re-discovery of every person! You are not just “another” in tens or hundreds or thousands or millions - you just are! **As you are, you are precious in the eyes of God!**

**Great is the loss if you are lost! Greater is the joy of your re-discovery! Even the angels will rejoice!**

**Saint of the day, August 9 - Saint Edith Stein and 20 other saints are remembered this day.**

Edith was born on October 12, 1891 in Breslau (now Wrocław, Poland), into an observant

Jewish family. She was the youngest of 11 children and was born on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Hebrew calendar. When she was 14 years old, she abandoned her faith in God and became an atheist.

She had a brilliant mind, went to college, and eventually earned a doctorate in Philosophy under the famous philosopher Edmund Husserl. In 1917, she visited a Jewish friend who converted to Christianity as a Protestant. After this visit, she started to read Christian literature, including the New Testament and St. Ignatius of Loyola's writings. She read the autobiography Saint Teresa of Avila and found God again. On January 1, 1922, Edith was baptized. She wanted to become a Carmelite nun immediately; however, her spiritual advisors persuaded her against it. For nine years she taught school, and in this experience, she recognized that God wanted her in the world to carry His divine life into it.

In 1933, she had to leave her teaching position, as the Nazis forbid Jews from teaching. Edith sought admittance into the Carmelite Order and was accepted. She took the name Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Sr. Teresa never forgot her Jewish roots and she continually prayed to God on behalf of the Jewish people and thanked Him for his greatness and mercy. On August 2, 1942, the German Gestapo arrested Sr. Teresa along with more than 200 other Jewish converts. On August 9, 1942 Sr. Teresa and many others were killed in the gas chamber inside the concentration camp at Auschwitz. She was canonized on October 11, 1998 by Pope John Paul II.

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