

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Thirtieth week in Ordinary Time

**Rule your mind with serenity rather than with force and manipulation.
(Lao Tzu)**

Philippians 1:18-26

Paul wrote to the Philippians that the most important thing in his life was to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus. It did not matter to him who got the credit, and he did not care what other preachers said about him. All that mattered was that Christ was proclaimed because salvation would result from preaching Christ and his Gospel. Paul continued to say that it did not matter to him if he died. Death would mean glory in Christ. Paul expressed his deepest desire to live for Christ even if it meant death for him.

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 14:1, 7-11

Jesus taught his listeners to be generous and gracious in giving and in showing hospitality. He challenged them to give generously to those who are unable to return the favor - the cripples, the lame, the beggars and the poor. You must give because it is your nature to give and not because there is a reward waiting for you. Giving is the quality of your person...you must learn to give because that is the kind of person you are...you must give even when there is no personal gain. Jesus called forth a new way of giving which made no claims, no conditions, and no expectation of return.

Jesus also set a new standard for hospitality - be hospitable to all, including the poor, the beggars, the cripples and all who can not return the favor. Let your hospitality be inclusive, all-embracing and without reciprocity. The teaching of Jesus, in this context, was to "invite", to host the poor, the cripples, the lame, the blind and so on and not to just sent them food baskets or a little cash to buy groceries. It is to reach out to all needy people as brothers and sisters who are worthy of respect and welcome in our homes.

Be gracious! Be generous! Give without counting the cost!

Saint of the Day, October 31 - St. Wolfgang of Regensburg and 8 Other saints are remembered this day.

Wolfgang was born in Swabia, Germany, and was educated at a school located at the abbey of Reichenau. There he encountered Henry, a young noble who went on to become Archbishop of Trier. Meanwhile, Wolfgang remained in close contact with the archbishop, teaching in his cathedral school and supporting his efforts to reform the clergy.

At the death of the archbishop, Wolfgang chose to become a Benedictine monk and moved to an abbey in Einsiedeln, now part of Switzerland. Ordained a priest, he was appointed director of the monastery school there. Later he was sent to Hungary as a missionary, though his zeal and good will yielded limited results.

Emperor Otto II appointed him Bishop of Regensburg, near Munich. Wolfgang immediately initiated reform of the clergy and of religious life, preaching with vigor and effectiveness and always demonstrating special concern for the poor. He wore the habit of a monk and lived an austere life.

The desire for a life of solitude and monastic life never left him. At one point he left his diocese so that he could devote himself to prayer, but his responsibilities as bishop called him back. In 994, Wolfgang became ill while on a journey; he died in Puppington near Linz, Austria. He was canonized in 1052. His feast day is celebrated widely in much of central Europe.

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