

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Twenty Second Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity is when you find peace in the midst of chaos.

I Corinthians 2:10-16

Paul tells us that the only person who can tell us the truth about God is the spirit of God. He uses a human analogy to explain this. There are feelings, thoughts, memories, etc. so private and so intimate that no one knows except a man's own spirit. Paul says that the same is true of God. Only the spirit of God can lead us into the really intimate things of God. So only a person who is sensitive to the Spirit of God can discern and come to know the wisdom of God.

Psalm 145

**The Lord is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger and of great kindness.
The Lord is good to all
And compassionate toward all his works.**

Luke 4:31-37

Jesus began to teach in the town of Capernaum. Luke tells us that his listeners were "spellbound by his teaching, for his words had authority". His authority was something new and different from what they were accustomed to. When the Rabbis taught, they relied on the authority of someone else before them...they supported their teaching with quotations from Moses or the Prophets or some great men of the past. What Jesus taught came from within and what came from within was visible in his person.... this was a new kind of authority.

The "authority" that Luke speaks of is not the authority that comes from occupying a position or from having a qualifying certificate. It is the authority of his person.... He was what he spoke. His message was evident in him. He didn't speak about faith...his word carried faith. He didn't speak about love.... he was love in person, incarnate. He didn't speak about compassion.... he was compassion in person. There was no discrepancy between his word and himself..... he was God's word incarnate, in the flesh, in person.

May the words of your mouth and the thoughts of your heart reflect who you are...you are called to image God, to be godlike in your ways, to live godly lives!

Saint of the Day, September 1 - St. Giles and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Giles was born around the year 650 in Athens, Eastern Roman Empire. He was one of the fourteen Holy Helpers and the only one definitively known to not be a martyr. The Fourteen Holy Helpers are a group of saints venerated together because their intercession is believed to be particularly effective, especially against various diseases.

In the middle of the 14th century, the plague - also called "The Black Death" - ravaged Europe, killing 50 million people, or about 60% of the population (a vastly higher death rate than coronavirus), within a few years. It was at this time that the Fourteen Holy Helpers came to be invoked by Catholics against the plague and other misfortunes.

Devotion to these 14 saints started in Germany at the time of the plague, and they were called "Nothelfer," which in German means "helpers in need." As bouts of the plague resurfaced over the decades, devotion to the Holy Helpers spread to other countries, and eventually Pope Nicholas V declared that devotion to the saints came with special indulgences.

St. Giles became a seventh-century monk in the area of Athens, despite his birth to nobility. He eventually retreated to the wilderness to found a monastery under the rule of St. Benedict, and was renowned for his holiness and the miracles he performed. Giles died peacefully around the year of 712 in Southern France.

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