

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Thursday, Fourth Week of Easter**

**Simplify your life by eliminating anything  
that does not align with your purpose and find joy in all you do.**

### **Acts 13:13-25**

Paul continued his missionary journey. He offered, to different groups of people, a summary of the history of salvation beginning with Abraham leading to the death and resurrection of Jesus. He invited people to accept Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament.

### **Psalms 89**

**The favors of the Lord I will sing for ever;  
Through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.  
For you have said, "My kindness is established for ever:  
In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.**

### **John 13:16-20**

Jesus had his last supper with his disciples. Great things happened during this meal. The Gospel reading of today flows from this experience. He had washed the feet of his disciples and called them to follow his example in gracious and self-sacrificing service.

Jesus also wanted the disciples to know that redeeming the world would cost him his life and that he was choosing death and that it was his chosen act of "surrender" to the will of his Father. This Gospel passage also refers to the bitterness of betrayal and the joy of fidelity. Jesus was accepting death in fidelity, in loyalty, in love, in total giving. And one of the disciples was going to betray him who loved and trusted!

**Learn to surrender to the will of the Father! Pray for wisdom and courage to accept  
the cost of self-surrender!**

The disciples were commissioned to go out with the master's message - not with their own agenda, but with the master's word. They were to speak his word, in his name. They were to stand with him, in him and for him.

**Be faithful to the WORD of Jesus!**

**Saint of the Day, May 15 - St. Isidore the Farmer and 18 other saints are remembered this day.**

Isidore was born into a poor but very devout family in Madrid around the year 1070. He was named Isidore from the name of their patron, St. Isidore of Seville. When he was barely old enough to wield a hoe, Isidore entered the service of John de Vergas, a wealthy landowner from Madrid, and worked faithfully on his estate outside the city for the rest of his life.

He married a young woman as simple and upright as himself who also became a saint—Maria de la Cabeza. They had one son, who died as a child. Isidore had deep religious feelings and habits. He rose early in the morning to go to church and spent many a holiday devoutly visiting the churches of Madrid and surrounding areas. All day long, as he walked behind the plow, he communed with God. His devotion, one might say, became a problem, for his fellow workers sometimes complained that he often showed up late because of lingering in church too long.

He was known for his love of the poor and shared what he had, even his meals, with the poor. There are accounts of Isidore's supplying them miraculously with food. He had a great concern for the proper treatment of animals as well. He died on May 15, 1130 and was canonized a saint on March 12, 1622 with Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila and Philip Neri. Together, the group is known in Spain as "the five saints." Isidore has become the patron of farmers and rural communities. He is the patron of Madrid, Spain, and of the United States National Rural Life Conference.

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