

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Monday, Eighth Week in Ordinary Time**

**We must be intentional about nurturing this virtue...it doesn't just happen.**

### **1 Peter 1:3-9**

Through his resurrection, Jesus has given us a new hope, a new birth, a new life. This gives us reason to rejoice and be happy. Trials, temptations and other difficult moments will come. But genuine faith will make endurance possible.

### **Palm 111**

**I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart,  
in the company and assembly of the just.  
Great are the works of the Lords,  
exquisite in all their delight.**

### **Mark 10:17-27**

A rich young man came to Jesus with excitement....fell at the feet of the one who is without riches .....called him "Good Teacher!".

Jesus simply says: "flattery won't work!.....keep the commandments....."

Jesus called the man to stop and think and count the cost. And Jesus challenged the man to make difficult choices. He told the young man that it was not enough to be morally respectable....need to become positively and sacrificially generous.

The young man went away sad not because he didn't want to follow Jesus, but because "he didn't want it as much as all that....."

How much do you want to follow Jesus? - enough to make sacrifices? All of us want goodness, love truth.....but so few of us want it enough to pay the price.

What the young man wanted was to share eternal life. This story gives us good insight into the nature of eternal life. Eternal refers to that which befits God or that which belongs to God or that which is characteristic of God. The great characteristic of God (if we might use the term for God) is unconditional, sacrificial love - he loved, he gave, and he was benevolent and gracious in giving. Eternal life is not based on carefully calculated observance of the commandments, rules and regulations - but based on attitude of loving and sacrificial giving

## **Saint of the Day, May 27 - St. Augustine of Canterbury and 6 other saints are remembered this day**

Augustine's date of birth and the details of his early life are not known. Most likely born in Rome to a noble family, he entered monastic life as a young man. The community he joined had been recently founded by a Benedictine monk named Gregory, who would go on to become Pope and eventually be known as St. Gregory the Great. The friendship between Gregory and Augustine had great historical consequences, as it was the Pope who would eventually send his fellow monk to evangelize England.

In the year 596, Pope Gregory sent Augustine, by then a Benedictine monk, and 39 other monks to England as missionaries. As they passed through Gaul, the locals convinced the monks that the Anglo-Saxons were savages, and they warned them that the English Channel was too dangerous to cross. Augustine decided that the danger was too great, and they returned to Rome. Pope Gregory allayed their fears and strengthened them to resume their journey.

Augustine and his monks landed in the Kingdom of Kent that was ruled by the pagan king, Ethelbert. Ethelbert was married to a Christian woman, and so he was familiar with the faith. The king provided the monks with hospitality, and within a year the king himself was baptized. In 597, Augustine was appointed Bishop of Canterbury. Because England was a pagan land, Augustine faced many obstacles converting the people. However, Pope Gregory had given him the missionary principle that helped him change hearts and minds. Instead of destroying pagan temples, he transformed them into churches. Pagan rites and festivals were transformed, as much as possible, into Christian ones. He died on May 26, 604 in Canterbury, United Kingdom.

Augustine achieved limited success in his eight years as Bishop, but his work and successes planted the seeds of Christianity that would eventually lead to the conversion of all of England by the year 680 A.D.

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