

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Nineteenth week of the year

Be quiet, silent and still if you seek peace and serenity.

Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10; 18-22

Ezekiel had another vision. He began to see his mission unfold before him. He had to call his people to make a fundamental choice: fidelity to God or death.... the line has to be drawn....things had to be set right with God. This was the message Ezekiel had to deliver to his people.

Psalm 113

**Praise you servants of the Lord,
Praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
both now and forever.**

Mathew 18:15-20

Jesus taught his disciples to make honest efforts to help one another recognize and correct the mistakes and wrong-doings. He taught them to spare no effort to correct a person. He also taught them to be patient in correcting brothers and sisters as God is patient and offer one another every chance for change.

He taught them to treat them as Gentiles and tax collectors if they refuse to respond, after all efforts have been made. Jesus gave them his own example of how to treat Gentiles and tax Collectors, with understanding and compassion.

Help and support one another realize mistakes and correct them.

In this excerpt, Mathew makes special reference to the power and the responsibility of the community to forgive "to bind and to loose" and coming to experience the Lord's presence in prayer, "where two or three are gathered...I will be there". A community gathered and united in prayer has the power to forgive and to heal and hold each other as brothers and sisters in mutual love. A praying community is a forgiving and healing and loving community.

Jesus promised them his presence whenever they are gathered in his name. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them".

Saint of the day, August 12 - St. Jane Frances de Chantal and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Jane Frances de Chantal was born in Dijon, France, on January 28, 1572. She was the daughter of the royalist president of the Parliament of Burgundy. Her mother died when Jane was 18 months old. Her father became the main influence on her education. She developed into a woman of beauty and refinement, lively and cheerful in temperament. She married the Baron de Chantal when she was 21 and then lived in the feudal castle of Bourbilly. Baron de Chantal was accidentally killed while hunting in 1601. Left a widow at 28, with four children, the broken-hearted baroness Jane Frances took a vow of chastity. She gained a reputation as an excellent manager of the estates of her husband, as well as of her difficult father-in-law, while also providing alms and nursing care to needy neighbors.

Jane could not bring herself to forgive the individual who had accidentally caused her husband's death, until in 1604 she heard a Lenten sermon of the bishop of Geneva Francis de Sales, who preached on the subject of the love of God. They became close friends and de Sales became her spiritual director.

With the help of her spiritual director and friend Francis de Sales, she founded a contemplative religious order, "Sisters of the Visitation", when her children were grown. The order accepted women who were rejected by other orders because of poor health or age. The order had 86 houses before Chantal herself died at the age of 69 on December 13, 1641. She was canonized in 1767.

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