

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Wednesday, Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time**

**The trees, the flowers, the plants grow in silence. The stars, the sun,  
the moon move in silence. Silence gives us a new perspective.**

**(Mother Teresa)**

## **Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21**

Jeremiah laments his birth. He lived a good life; heard and responded to God's call; tried to fulfill the mission God had given him; made God's word the joy of his heart "devoured them" as he says....but he became a man of contention and strife to all in the land, he says. As he lamented, the Lord promised to be with him in his strife and make Jeremiah his mouthpiece.

## **Psalms 59**

**Rescue me from my enemies, O my God;  
from my adversaries defend me.  
Rescue me from evildoers,  
from bloodthirsty men, save me.**

## **Matthew 13:44-46**

Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to a treasure buried in a field. A man found it, hid it, rejoiced in his find, and sold all he had and bought that field. He did not just pick up the pearl...he bought the whole field.

**The kingdom is buried deep within, here and now.....and not something yet to happen.  
The kingdom is found within the context of our daily life and responsibilities and not in  
some extraordinary, earth-shattering event. All that surrounds the kingdom gains a  
new meaning because the treasure of the kingdom has been found. This treasure is  
worth sacrificing everything that we have.**

Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to a pearl of great value for which a merchant would sell all he owns. A pearl was the most beautiful thing that the listeners of Jesus could imagine.

**The kingdom is presented as the most beautiful thing that one can dream of and  
contemplate and it is worth all the sacrifice that one has to make.**

**Saint of the Day, July 29 - St. Martha of Bethany and 41 other saints are remembered this day.**

We have very little information about Martha's birth and early life. Martha, Mary and Lazarus were friends of Jesus. Their home was where Jesus had the freedom to just walk in and feel at home. This is a home where Jesus showed real human feelings - including show of tears. Martha's conversation with Jesus shows that she was able to say just what she thought without inhibitions or any pious considerations. At the dinner honoring Jesus' visit, Martha asked the support of Jesus in getting her sister Mary to pitch in and help. In reply, Jesus invited her to sit with her sister and listen - to "choose the better part". In a culture where women were not permitted to study with a rabbi, Jesus took a bold stand in treating these two friends the way he did.

Martha was bold, free, uninhibited. When Lazarus died, she said to Jesus: "I know you are the Messiah". Even a practical, down-to-earth person is capable of deep spiritual insights. Being practical and being contemplative are not opposed to each other - they are not mutually exclusive. It is very possible to blend the two. Martha developed a reputation over the centuries as the practical, active Christian. She is often pictured with a cooking ladle or a set of household keys. She is the patron saint of cooks and of hospitality.

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