

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, First Week of Advent

More men and women fail through lack of purpose than lack of resources.

Isaiah 25:6-10

This excerpt describes Isaiah's vision of the whole creation moving toward a final day of unending celebration, to a joyful feast where people from all over the earth gather with God and his heavenly court. Rich food and choice wine symbolize fulfillment, complete satisfaction. **A loving and benevolent and gracious God will provide for all people.**

Psalms 23

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
He refreshes my soul.....**

Matthew 15:29-37

Matthew tells us how gracious, kind, and compassionate Jesus was. While his primary concern was to proclaim the kingdom, he became sensitive to the most basic needs of people, their hunger and thirst and their need for rest and he did something about it, responded to their basic needs....he gave them not only the bread of God's word, but bread for the body.

Be sensitive to the basic needs of people! Be mindful of the hunger and thirst of the less fortunate in your community!

This excerpt describes to us how God's power and compassion met and reached out to the many needs of people and to the different situations of people.

May your power and your compassion meet.... may justice and peace embrace....and may you reach out to all in need of compassion and love.

Jesus did not burden people with lectures, with doctrines, with ideals.... he fed them, healed them and strengthened them for their ongoing journey.

May you find strength and comfort in listening to the word of Jesus. And may you be an instrument of strength for others on their journey.

Saint of the Day, December 3 - St. Francis Xavier and 11 other saints are remembered this day

Francis was born on April 7, 1506 in Xavier (Javier) Castle, near Sangüesa, Navarre, Spain. He was sent to study at the University of Paris where he roomed with his friend, Peter Favre. They were much influenced by Ignatius of Loyola, who encouraged Francis to become a priest.

He renounced his worldly life in response to the words he heard from St. Ignatius of Loyola, "What does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, but suffer the loss of his own soul?" On August 15, 1534, Francis Xavier along with Peter Favre, and several other friends, made vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The men planned to travel to the Holy Land to convert non-believers. Francis Xavier started his study of theology that same year and was ordained on June 24, 1537.

Francis was one of the first five who joined Ignatius when he founded the Society of Jesus or Jesuits as we know the order today. He left for India in 1541 and arrived in the region and colony of Goa, India on May 6, 1542. He became a great missionary in India, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Japan. He wanted to go to China and left India for the last time in April, 1552. His ship reached China in August, stopping at an island off the Chinese coast. While he was waiting for his boat to arrive, he became ill with a fever and died on December 3, 1552 before he could fulfill his dream of being a missionary in China. He was a man of courage, determination, patience and perseverance.

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