

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Thirty-third Week in Ordinary Time

**Forbearance is correcting your brother or sister gently
and kindly and patiently.**

Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22

This excerpt is from the letter of John to the Church in Sardis. Sardis had a reputation of living in luxury. The community had fallen into spiritual “death”. John called them to wake up and strengthen their faith. He gave the Church of Laodicea a similar call.

Psalm 15

Yahweh, who has the right to enter your tent,
or to live on your holy mountain?
Those whose way of life is blameless,
who always do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart!

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus came into Jericho, a wealthy and important town, considered to be “the fattest in Palestine”. Jericho was one of the greatest taxation centers. Zacchaeus was a wealthy man in Jericho, a tax collector on top in his profession. He was curious about Jesus and was determined to take a look at him. So, he climbed a tree, being small of stature, to take a look at Jesus.

Jesus saw him before Zacchaeus did and invited him to come down the tree and take him home as a guest. Zacchaeus was a changed man when he came down from the tree. He went home with Jesus and gave a wonderful testimony of the radical change that came into his life: “I give half my belongings to the poor and if I have defrauded any one in the least, I will pay back four fold”.

Let the changed and renewed life be the testimony of your encounter with Christ!

**Saint of the day, November 19 - St. Nerses the Great and 165 other saints
are remembered this day.**

St. Nerses was a native of Armenia. He studied in Cappadocia and married a princess who gave birth to St. Isaac the great. After his wife died, he served as a chamberlain in the court of King Arshak of Armenia. In 353 he was made Catholicos of the Armenians. Nerses devoted much effort to reforming the Armenian Church, including convening a synod in 365 based on the principles he had studied under St. Basil at Caesarea.

Though he established hospitals and monasteries, his reforms and denunciation of King Arshak's murder of the queen led to his exile. He returned after Arshak's death in battle, but relations were not much better with the new Armenian ruler, Pap, whose dissolute lifestyle caused Nerses to refuse him admission into church. Nerses was invited to a royal banquet at Khakh, on the Euphrates River, and was assassinated by poison.

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