

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Twenty Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

**Forbearance calls forth self-discipline, self-restraint, self-control,
humility and other-centeredness**

Job 1:6-22

Job faced four tragedies one after the other. He lost his cattle, his sheep, his camels and finally his own family. He was a good and just man. He did not do anything to deserve such treatment. Through all these, Job remained faithful to his God, never saying anything disrespectful of God.

Psalm 17

**Hear O Lord, a just suit;
Attend to my outcry;
Hearken to my prayer,
from lips without deceit.**

Luke 9:46-50

The disciples wanted to know who was of greatest importance in the kingdom. Jesus responded: 'unless you turn and become as children, you will not enter the kingdom of God. You are going in the wrong direction, not in the direction of the Kingdom'. You are aiming at personal power, prestige, etc. which is the opposite of the Kingdom.

Humility is the quality of a person who belongs in the kingdom. Child's trust, dependence, innocence and purity are all qualities of people of the kingdom. Reflect on turning toward the Kingdom, away from personal power, prestige, etc.

Jesus invited his disciples and he invites us today to be childlike and be willing to surrender in loving and generous service. He invites us to have a new vision of "greatness" as service, humility, and self-surrender, different from what the world seems to offer. Those of us, who choose to follow Jesus and be his disciples, must learn to redefine greatness as humility, service, and self-surrender.

Change your vision: it is a privilege, an honor and blessing to be the last and to serve the least.

Saint of the Day, September 30 - Saints Jerome and 17 other saints are remembered this day

Jerome was born in Dalmatia, along the coast of the Adriatic Sea around the year 347 and was educated in Rome. He had developed a passion for books and began a collection of expensive books. After completing his education, he lived as a hermit in the Syrian Desert for five years. Pope Damasus invited him to be his secretary. In Rome he preached many sermons which made the wealthy uncomfortable and angry. He began a Bible study group for women, which was the first Bible study group that we know of. He believed that contact with Scripture would transform the lives of people.

After the death of Pope Damasus, he went to the Holy land and settled in Bethlehem where he lived for the rest of his life. Paula, from the first bible study group, became a brilliant scholar and followed Jerome to Bethlehem. Many others also followed them and settled in Bethlehem. Paula and Jerome founded two monasteries, one for men and the other for women and a Church shared by both.

In Bethlehem, Jerome devoted his life to study and meditation. Assisted by Paula and others, he translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin. This translation was called the Vulgate, from the Latin word for "the common people". This translation was used for many centuries.

Jerome was always kind to the needy. When Rome was attacked in the year 410, many refugees came to the East to the monasteries. Jerome laid aside his studies to serve them saying, "Today, we must translate the words of scripture into deeds and instead of speaking saintly words, we must act on them."

He died in Bethlehem around the year 420.

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