

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Second Week of Lent

**Be grateful because you are happy and be happy
because you are grateful.**

Daniel 9:4-10

Daniel made a corporate act of contrition because the whole nation had broken the covenant. He called on the Mercy of an “awesome God who keeps his merciful covenant”. **God is faithful to Himself and to his covenant even when His people are unfaithful. Our call is to be godlike. Be faithful even when others are not faithful. Let not your faithfulness depend on other’s faithfulness or the lack of it.**

Psalm 79

**Lord, do not deal with us as our sins deserve,
May your compassion quickly come to us!
Deliver us and pardon our sins,
For your name’s sake.**

Luke 6:36-38

Jesus taught his disciples to be compassionate. He called them and now he calls us to live a very high standard of life: “Be Compassionate as the father is compassionate”. This is the standard for the disciples: they must do more and be more than the pagans; they must do that “extra thing”. What special grace is there in doing what even the ungodly may do, Jesus asked?

**How much better are you than the ordinary person who has not been enlightened,
awakened, educated, blessed, spirited, baptized and anointed?**

Do not judge, Jesus said. It is not our neighbor that we must judge. It is not our neighbor with whom we must compare ourselves. It is with God and His ways and that is the challenge. The rationale, the motivation for all these is that they make us “godlike” people. We reflect God’s nature - in God’s image we are made. God sends His rain on the just and the unjust; God is kind to the one who is kind and kind to the one who is unkind; God embraces the saint and the sinner as well.

**We are called to love as we have been loved.....We are called to forgive as we
have been forgiven.....We called to give as we have been given.....We are
called to bless as we have been blessed!**

Saint of the Day, February 1 - St. David of Wales and 13 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint David was born in Caerfai, south west Wales into an aristocratic family. We have very little reliable information about his life. According to tradition, St. David was the son of King Sant of South Wales and St. Non. He was ordained a priest and later studied under St. Paulinus. Later, he was involved in missionary work and founded several monasteries, including his principal abbey in southwestern Wales.

Many stories and legends sprang up about David and his Welsh monks. Their austerity was extreme. They worked in silence without the help of animals to till the soil. Their food was limited to bread, vegetables and water. David and his monks drank neither wine nor beer - only water - while putting in a full day of heavy manual labor and intense study.

Around the year 550, David attended a synod where his eloquence impressed his fellow monks to such a degree that he was elected primate of the region. He ruled his diocese until he had reached a very old age. He died on March 1, 589. His last words to his monks and subjects were: "Be joyful, brothers and sisters. Keep your faith and do the little things that you have seen and heard with me."

Saint David is pictured standing on a mound with a dove on his shoulder. The legend is that once while he was preaching a dove descended to his shoulder and the earth rose to lift him high above the people so that he could be heard. Over 50 churches in South Wales were dedicated to him in pre-Reformation days.

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