

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Thirtieth week of the year

**Hope is a word, a smile, a touch, a look, a call, a challenge
that comes from the heart**

Romans 11:1-2; 11-12; 25-29

In this excerpt, Paul teaches the converts in Rome and us today that God's gift of Grace is irrevocable. God has not withdrawn his grace. He has not rejected his people even though his people rejected him. And it is not all of his people who rejected him. There has always been a remnant of people who remained faithful. Even the rejection of some became a channel of grace for others. God has used the rejection of some of the Jews to enable Paul and others to reach out to the gentiles and bring them the good news of Jesus. God comes to us even through the most unexpected channels, people and situations.

Psalm 94

**Blessed the man whom instruct, O Lord,
Whom by your law you teach,
Giving him rest from evil days.**

Luke 14:1, 7-11

Jesus taught his listeners to be generous and gracious in giving and in showing hospitality. He challenged them to give generously to those who are unable to return the favor, the cripples, the lame, the beggars and the poor. You must give because it is your nature to give and not because there is a rewards waiting for you. Giving is the quality of your person...you must learn to give because that is the kind of person you are...you must give even when there is no personal gain. Jesus called forth a new way of giving which made no claims, no conditions and no expectation of return.

Jesus also set a new standard for hospitality: be hospitable to all, including the poor, the beggars, the cripples and all who can not return the favor. Let your hospitality be inclusive, all-embracing and without reciprocity. The teaching of Jesus, in this context, was to "invite", to host the poor, the cripples, the lame, the blind and so on and not to just sent them food baskets or a little cash to buy groceries. It is to reach out to all needy people as brothers and sisters who are worthy of respect and welcome in our homes.

Be gracious! Be generous! Give without counting the cost!

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