

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 17:1-6

Elijah followed the Lord's direction and went to live east of the Jordan and escaped a severe famine. The Lord provided him with food and drink.

Trust in the Lord. He will provide.

Psalm 121

**I lift my eyes toward the mountain;
whence shall help come to me?
My help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.....**

Mathew 5:1-12

In this excerpt, Mathew gives us the essence of Christ's message, the "Beatitudes". "Blessed" is a special word in Greek which describes the joy that has its secret within itself, the joy/bliss which is serene, self-contained - the joy which shines through pain, sorrow, loss, grief, disappointment, etc.

Jesus articulated for his followers certain attitudes which they must cultivate if they are to live as kingdom people....certain disposition toward themselves and the world around them. We have come to know them and love them as the "Beatitudes". We are called to cultivate these attitudes.....they are to shape our character....

The Beatitudes are for people who have their hearts set on the reign of God. They are not doctrines.....not policies of a Church.....not rules legislated by an authority.....they are for those who want to live noble lives, for those who want their lives to be a blessing for themselves and for the world around them.....they are for kingdom people and we are a kingdom people.....

The Beatitudes tell us that the Reign of God is already in our midst if and when we bless the world with living lives transformed with the beatitudes.....Noble people must have noble attitudes.... God's people must have godly attitudes...

Saint of the Day, June 8

St. William of York and 17 other saints are remembered this day.

William was born into a powerful family in England sometime before 1090, but the date of birth is unknown. He was the son of Herbert of Winchester, chancellor and treasurer of King Henry I. He was appointed treasurer of York and archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire, probably through the influence of his rich and powerful father. He held both of these offices until his election as archbishop of York in 1140. Local clergymen were less enthusiastic, however, and the archbishop of Canterbury refused to consecrate William. Three years later a neighboring bishop performed the consecration, but it lacked the approval of Pope Innocent II, whose successors likewise withheld approval. William was deposed, and a new election was ordered.

It was not until 1154 - 14 years after he was first nominated—that William became archbishop of York. When he entered the city that spring after years of exile, he received an enthusiastic welcome. Within two months he died on June 8, 1154, allegedly due to poison administered in the chalice at Mass. William was buried in York Minster and within a few months of his death, miracles were attributed to his intervention and a sweet smell came from his tomb when it was damaged during a fire. Nor was the body decayed or burnt in the fire. Pope Honorius III then ordered an investigation into the miracles. In 1227, he was canonized in Rome by Pope Honorius III.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs