

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Third Week of Lent

A life driven by purpose is one lived with clarity and focus.

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9

Moses tells the people how special they are to God – so special that God gave them laws, guidance from his heart for his people! God did not leave his people in the wilderness to go their own way without direction! God's people must remember God's teachings and pass them on to their children.

The sign of wisdom and intelligence is that God's people know God's wisdom and they follow God's wisdom.... God is so close to His people that he is there when they call upon him.....

Keep searching for God's wisdom and be faithful!

Psalm 147

**Praise the Lord for he is good, sing praise.....he is gracious.....
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.....
Great is the Lord.....to his wisdom there is no limit.....**

Mathew 5:17-19

Jesus told the disciples that he did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill the law. He also told them that greatness in God's kingdom depended on faithfulness to God's law.

Jesus came to bring out the meaning and purpose of the law – to fulfill it – to realize it, to achieve its purpose. The real purpose of the law which Jesus came to fulfill is at the heart of the Ten Commandments and the beatitudes. One word that could identify this purpose is REVERENCE or deep respect – reverence for God, for self, for other and for all of God's creation. It is this reverence, deep respect, intimate love that Jesus came to fulfill, to show us in actual life what reverence for God and God's creation means.

Keep searching for the wisdom of God!

Be faithful to God and God's law! Learn to fulfill God's law, to achieve its purpose!

Saint of the Day 26 - St. Catherine of Genoa and 17 other saints are remembered this day

Catherine was born in Genoa in 1447, the last of five children of Jacopo Fieschi and Francesca di Negro, members of the nobility in Genoa. At 13, she attempted to become a nun but failed because of her age. After this Catherine appears to have put the idea aside without any further attempt. At 16, she married Julian, a nobleman who turned out to be selfish and unfaithful. For a while she tried to deal with her disappointment by a life of selfish pleasure.

One day in confession she had a new sense of her own sins and how much God loved her. She reformed her life and gave good example to Julian, who soon turned from his self-centered life to a life of generosity. Julian's spending, however, had ruined them financially. He and Catherine decided to dedicate themselves to charity work in a large hospital in Genoa. After Julian's death in 1497, Catherine took over management of the hospital. She wrote about purgatory which, she said, begins on earth for souls open to God. Life with God in heaven is a continuation and perfection of the life with God begun on earth. She died on September 15, 1510, exhausted by her life of self-sacrifice and was canonized in 1737.

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