

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday after Epiphany

Everything in creation has an inherent propensity and the power which is God-given for fulfilling their purpose.

1 John 5:5-13

John reminds his readers that God has gifted them with eternal life and this gift of life is in his son, Jesus. Whoever finds life in Christ finds eternal life.

Psalm 147

**Glorify the Lord, O Jerusalem;
Praise your God, O Zion
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
He has blessed your children within you.**

Luke 5:12-16

This excerpt tells us the story a leper meeting Jesus. The misfortune of the leper was not only his disease but his enforced isolation from family, friends and community. The leper reached out to Jesus for a cure of his disease.

Be mindful of those who are alienated from the community because of poverty, disease and other realities of life!

This is one of the most revealing pictures of Jesus. He did not drive away a man who had broken the law. The leper had no right to speak to him. He was expected to stay away, at a distance from all people. Jesus met the desperation of human need with compassion. Jesus reached out and touched him. To Jesus, he was not unclean. He was a man in desperate need.

Be mindful of those with desperate needs. Meet them with compassion.

Having cleansed him, Jesus sent the leper to fulfill the prescribed ritual. He did not defy convention – just went beyond it. This is an example of compassion with wisdom. Jesus healed a man from the disease that reduces the human person to “disintegration” and “alienation”, bringing wholeness and integrity. Compassion goes far beyond the law and the requirements.

Reach out to those who are alienated from the community and do all you can to bring wholeness and integrity to all people!

Saint of the Day, January 10 - Saint Gregory of Nyssa and 12 other saints are remembered this day

Gregory was born around 335, probably in or near the city of Neocaesarea, Pontus (Turkey). His family was aristocratic and Christian. Among his eight siblings were St. Macrina the Younger, St. Naucratus, St. Peter of Sebaste and St. Basil of Caesarea. The son of two saints, Basil and Emmilia, young Gregory was raised by his older brother, Saint Basil the Great, and his sister, Macrina, in modern-day Turkey. After his marriage, Gregory went on to study for the priesthood and was ordained, at a time when celibacy was not a matter of law for priests.

He was elected Bishop of Nyssa in 372, a period of great tension over the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ. Briefly arrested after being falsely accused of embezzling Church funds, Gregory was restored to his see in 378. After the death of his brother, Basil, Gregory wrote with great effectiveness against Arianism and other questionable doctrines, gaining a reputation as a defender of orthodoxy. He was sent on missions to counter other heresies and held a position of prominence at the Council of Constantinople. Saint Gregory of Nyssa is seen not simply as a pillar of orthodoxy but as one of the great contributors to the mystical tradition in Christian spirituality and to monasticism itself. He died at Nyssa around the year 394.

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