

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Third Week of Lent

**In the pursuit of purpose, we find not only what we seek
but also the profound discovery of who we are meant to be.**

2 Kings 5:1-15

Naaman, a good man and effective military leader had to surrender to something that he considered “less than” himself to overcome the problems (obstacles) in his life. He had to learn to humble himself before he was freed from his problems. Naaman had two problems in his life: he was a leper and a Syrian. Leprosy was looked on with fear, causing hostility, isolation and separation from the community. Syrians were looked upon with suspicion and fear. Naaman was an outsider, not part of God’s chosen people, a man to be feared, to be suspicious of and kept apart from the community. Naaman had to listen to his servant girl, then to more servants and give up his pride in order to be healed. The unclean foreigner was cleansed, and he gave testimony to God and God’s power.

Learn to be humble in your ways. Listen and learn to surrender to the Lord. Welcome God’s ways with real faith and learn to attempt what seems impossible!

Psalm 42

**As the hind longs for running waters,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
Athirst is my soul for God, the living God,
when shall I go and behold the face of God.**

Luke 4:24-30

Being a Prophet meant many things to many people such as, calling people to purification, a cleansing of life, a conversion of attitude and real repentance; Proclaiming truth; Standing for God and God’s law; Calling forth justice; Proclaiming righteousness, God’s righteousness; Teaching values; Calling forth virtuous living; Proclaiming unconditional love.....And that is why a Prophet is not acceptable in his own native place.

Learn to listen to the Prophetic voice coming from unexpected sources. Remember, Naaman had to listen to his servants; Abraham had to listen to strangers; Moses had to listen to a burning bush; Mary had to listen to an angel; Joseph had to listen to his

dream; John the Baptist had to listen to a voice from the sky...Let us learn to listen and listen with faith...

Saint of the Day, March 24 - St. Oscar Arnulfo Romero and 15 other saints are remembered this day.

Oscar Romero was born in El Salvador on August 15, 1917 and became Archbishop of San Salvador. He was a source of strength and hope for the poor and for the oppressed of his country, working with and for them, taking their struggles as his own. Romero wrote and spoke passionately and publicly of the need for Christians to work for justice, frequently faced with threat and danger from those who opposed his ideas.

On March 24, 1980, while celebrating the Eucharist, Archbishop Romero was shot and killed at the altar by a death squad assassin, paying the highest price for the commitment about which he spoke so often and so eloquently. Because of his courageous stand for justice, he became a martyr not only for poor Salvadorians but for all struggling to overcome oppression and poverty. The example of Romero's courageous life and death continue to inspire those who struggle for human dignity and justice. He was canonized on October 14, 2018

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