

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Thursday, Third Week of Lent**

**Living purposefully ensures that every moment is meaningful.**

## **Jeremiah 7:23-28**

The well-being of a nation depends on its spiritual and moral strength more than the abundance of material wealth. There can be no liberation without walking in the ways of the Lord. Our Lenten journey is a journey of self-surrender.

**We are called to walk in loving obedience to God and generous service to our neighbor.**

## **Psalm 95**

**Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord;  
Let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.  
Let us greet him with thanksgiving;  
Let us joyfully sing praise to him.**

## **Luke 11:14-23**

Slander is a very cruel thing, may be, one of the worst things that you can do to others. Slander often sticks because of the tendency of many to think the worst of themselves and others and some prefer to hear the derogatory rather than the complimentary story.

**Do you have a tendency to think the worst of yourself or others? Do you have a tendency to deliberately impute low motives to someone you dislike? Do you have a tendency to repeat unpleasant or slanderous or malicious stories and hurt the reputation of others?**

One cannot follow Jesus in a half-hearted manner. One is either totally committed to the world or the Lord. We cannot have divided loyalties. There is no neutral position in the Kingdom of God. You have to take a stand. You are either on the way or in the way.

**Is your commitment becoming more and more undivided, complete and whole?**

**Are you on the way? How is your journey progressing? Are you aware of anything on the way that seems to get in your way?**

**Saint of the Day, March 27 - St. Lazarus and 7 other saints are remembered this day.**

Lazarus was the friend of Jesus, the brother of Martha and Mary. Jesus raised him from the dead and of him, the Jews said, "See how much he loved him." We have very little historically accurate knowledge of Lazarus. There are many legends about him after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Lazarus is supposed to have left a written account of what he saw in the next world before he was called back to life. Some say he followed Peter into Syria. Another story is that despite being put into a leaking boat by the Jews at Jaffa, he, his sisters, and others landed safely in Cyprus. There he died peacefully after serving as bishop for 30 years.

A church was built in his honor in Constantinople and some of his reputed relics were transferred there in 890. A Western legend has the oarless boat arriving in Gaul. There, he was bishop of Marseilles, was martyred after making a number of converts, and was buried in a cave. His relics were transferred to the new cathedral in Autumn in 1146.

It is certain that there was early devotion to the saint. Around the year 390, the pilgrim lady Etheria talks of the procession that took place on the Saturday before Palm Sunday at the tomb where Lazarus had been raised from the dead. In the West, Passion Sunday was called Dominica de Lazaro, and Augustine tells us that in Africa the Gospel of the raising of Lazarus was read at the office of Palm Sunday. Devotion to Lazarus was commonplace in the early Church.

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