

Meditation 2014-02-20
Today is a Ferial Day in Septuagesima Week
Meditation Theme: "How Much Am I Due?"

Place yourself in the presence of Jesus Christ. Make sure He knows that every thought, action, and experience of today is dedicated exclusively to Him.

The Scenario: From the Gospel of Septuagesima Sunday

At that time Jesus spoke to His disciples this parable: The kingdom of heaven is like to an householder, who went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And having agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going about the third hour, he saw others standing in the market place idle. And he said to them: Go you also into my vineyard, and I will give you what shall be just. And they went their way. And again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did in like manner. But about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing, and he saith to them: Why stand you here all the day idle? They say to him: Because no man hath hired us. He saith to them: Go you also into my vineyard. And when evening was come, the lord of the vineyard saith to his steward: Call the labourers and pay them their hire, beginning from the last even to the first. When therefore they were come, that came about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first also came, they thought that they should receive more: and they also received every man a penny. And receiving it they murmured against the master of the house, saying: These last have worked but one hour, and thou hast made them equal to us, that have borne the burden of the day and the heats. But he answering said to one of them: Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst thou not agree with me for a penny? Take what is thine, and go thy way: I will also give to this last even as to thee. Or, is it not lawful for me to do what I will? is thy eye evil, because I am good? So shall the last be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.

Point 1. - Consider the length of time you have had the Faith. You may have come to the Faith recently, or you may have held it since your childhood. Ask yourself whether having the Faith is your own doing. Ask yourself if it is you who can take the credit for it. Consider that the Faith is totally a gift from God, not of your own doing. The only thing that you might take credit for is accepting this gift.

Point 2. - Consider the generosity of God which can never be outdone. If someone comes to the Faith late in life, perhaps even on his deathbed, he can reach eternal Salvation. Consider that Salvation is the reward for Faith, and you cannot get to Heaven without it. Think of how it matters not that you have held it for many years or only for a few hours.

Point 3. - Consider that Salvation is only from the Generosity of God. There is nothing that you, as an individual, can do to earn it. Jesus said, "Without Me you can do nothing." (*John 15:5*) He has redeemed you! He has paid the price that you owed and had no way of paying for yourself. You must, however, accept this Redemption, and make it your own.

Meditation: Consider the value of the Faith, and how much it can benefit your soul. It comes free from God. He offers it to all, and all are eligible to accept it. Come to it late, even on your deathbed, or hold it fast from the cradle. It is the Faith that will get you into Heaven. If you have it, thank God for it! Hold it as firmly as you can. Not everyone accepts what God offers them. Do not allow

yourself to be one of the souls who refuses to accept this greatest of gifts. The Church tells us those things that are “de fide” (of the Faith). It is not enough to merely say “I accept whatever the Church teaches.” You cannot say this; you cannot accept as truth what you do not know. The best you can say is “I am prepared to accept whatever the Church teaches when I know it.” You are obliged in Faith to learn what the Church teaches. You cannot make it up for yourself, either. And remember, that once you have the Faith, you cannot hold onto it without prayer.

Colloquy: Take a minute or two to converse with God, in any of His three Persons, or the Triune God complete in Himself. Tell Him what you have learned from your meditation, and thank Him for it.

Hold the Gain: Consider what you can do to keep the fruits of your meditation. Try to plan how you can think of them through the day, and through the days ahead. Come up with ways you can apply your conclusions to what you do in your everyday life, conversations you engage in, the choice of what movie to watch, what books you choose to read.