

Meditation 2014-02-24
Today is the Feast of Saint Matthias
Meditation Theme: “Can I answer my call?”

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 today’s Mass

At that time Jesus answered and said: I confess to thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them to the little ones. Yea, Father; for so hath it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered to me by my Father. And no one knoweth the Son, but the Father: neither doth any one know the Father, but the Son, and he to whom it shall please the Son to reveal him. Come to me, all you that labour, and are burdened, and I will refresh you. Take up my yoke upon you, and learn of me, because I am meek, and humble of heart: and you shall find rest to your souls. For my yoke is sweet and my burden light.

Point 1. – Jesus testifies to the relationship He has with His Father. They know each other perfectly. It is through Jesus that we can know the Father.

Point 2. – Jesus calls all the world to Himself, for all labor and are burdened. He will give us relief from this, but only if we ask it.

Point 3. – Jesus tells us to “take up His yoke.” This means that we must submit ourselves to His command and control.

Point 4. – Jesus tells us that He is meek, and humble of heart. He is not the kind of potentate who drives his slaves with an angry whip. Submission to His yoke, and bearing His burdens is ultimately easy.

Meditation: God calls everyone to come to Him. He promises that it will not be difficult. Have I taken up His yoke? Have I decided to live by His rules? Do I accept that He has the authority to specify what is right and wrong? Do I insist that I should decide these things for myself? Who is better at making such decisions? How do I decide what is good and what is bad? The criteria I use – are they mine or are they God’s?

The world continually tells us that we are the ones who should determine good and evil, according to whatever measures we deem appropriate at the time. The serpent told the woman that she and the man would “be as gods, knowing good and evil.” (*Gen. 3:5*) Do I also believe this whispered temptation? If I am a god, will I not be able to say what is good and what is evil? If I am a god, will there be any value higher than myself? Am I a god? Can I, by myself, refresh my soul from the labor and burdens I experience? Can I be a god simply by thinking I am? Is believing that I am a god something that I can really even do?

I must reject the notion entirely! The only option I have is to say “yes” or “no” – and I know which is the one I must choose. To make the right choice is life! To make the wrong choice is fatal!

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.