

Meditation 2014-03-06
Thursday After Ash Wednesday
Meditation Theme: “What Authority Do I Acknowledge?”

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, when Jesus had entered into Capharnaum, there came to Him a centurion, beseeching Him, and saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, and is grievously tormented. And Jesus saith to him: I will come and heal him. And the centurion making answer, said: Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof: but only say the word, and my servant shall be healed. For I also am a man subject to authority, having under me soldiers; and I say to this, Go, and he goeth, and to another, Come, and he cometh, and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. And Jesus hearing this, marveled; and said to them that followed him: Amen I say to you, I have not found so great faith in Israel. And I say to you that many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven: But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into the exterior darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said to the centurion: Go, and as thou hast believed, so be it done to thee. And the servant was healed at the same hour.

Point 1. – The centurion approaches Jesus and asks no favor. He merely relates the fact that his servant is sick. He trusts that Jesus will know what to do.

Point 2. – The centurion professes his personal unworthiness. To have Jesus come to his home would be, in his estimation, too great an honor for him, and too great a condescension for Jesus to make.

Point 3. – The centurion tells us that he understands the nature of authority and how it works. He recognizes that Jesus has the authority to command all things. It is this Faith, and this understanding that Jesus praises.

Meditation: The centurion acknowledges that Jesus, like the centurion himself, can command things to be done and they get done. The centurion need not do them himself, and neither need Jesus. The centurion admits that he is unworthy to have God physically present in his home, and tells us that he knows Jesus doesn’t have to come there to accomplish whatever He wills. The words of the centurion are repeated before the reception of Communion at Mass.

Do I ever think that I am worthy of anything? If I am, how do I come to be so? Is it through my own effort? Can I become worthy on my own? If I cannot, who helps me to become worthy? What change has to take place?

Do I understand authority like the centurion did? Is there anyone or anything that I can command? In my home, or place of employment? If I give an order, will it be carried out? Is it because of who I am, or because I have authority to command it to be done? Does Jesus have

authority? Can He command? Anyone or anything? He commands the sickness to leave the centurion's servant. Can He also command sickness to leave my soul? Will He do it if I do not ask for it, or at least admit that it needs doing and that He is the only one Who can do it? Do I need it? Can I count on it? Have I ever made an act of Faith like the centurion? Do I believe? Do I believe enough?

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.