

**Meditation 2014-03-08**  
**Saturday After Ash Wednesday**  
**Meditation Theme: “Why Miracles?”**

**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

**A**T that time, when it was late, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and Jesus alone on the land. And seeing them laboring in rowing, (for the wind was against them,) and about the fourth watch of the night, he cometh to them walking upon the sea, and he would have passed by them. But they seeing him walking upon the sea, thought it was an apparition, and they cried out. For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he spoke with them, and said to them: Have a good heart, it is I, fear ye not. And he went up to them into the ship, and the wind ceased: and they were far more astonished within themselves: For they understood not concerning the loaves; for their heart was blinded. And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Genezareth, and set to the shore. And when they were gone out of the ship, immediately they knew him: And running through that whole country, they began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was. And whithersoever he entered, into towns or into villages or cities, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch but the hem of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

**Point 1.** – Jesus has worked many miracles in the presence of witnesses. He walks upon the water. He had previously multiplied the barley loaves and fishes. He calmed the storm on the sea.

**Point 2.** – Jesus always worked miracles to demonstrate who He was. He showed the entire world that He had the Power, that He could Command, that He would be Obeyed.

**Point 3.** – In the Miracle described here, Jesus publicly demonstrates His power. He does not feed the hungry, cure the blind and the lame, or cast out demons. He very simply shows that He is Divine by doing something, namely re-ordering nature, that only God can do.

**Meditation:** Faith is the acceptance of truth, both intellectually and spiritually, because I trust the source of the truth. If I put my hand into water and know that it is wet and cool, I do not arrive at that knowledge through faith, but rather through certain knowledge gained empirically. If, however, someone else tells me that water is both wet and cool, and I have no certain knowledge of my own, I may or may not believe it, based to a great degree on who is telling it to me. If I know the person doing the telling to be a truthful and honest person, I will be much more likely to accept the truth about water than if the person doing the telling is known to be dishonest and deceitful. The incident related in the Gospel tells me that Jesus is Divine.

Do I believe it? Do I trust the person doing the telling? Do I trust Saint Matthew to be telling me the truth? Why, or why not? Do I know him to be truthful and honest? How do I know this? If it is the Catholic Church that gives Saint Matthew credibility, why do I believe the Catholic Church? What makes the Church so credible? Do I trust the Church to always tell the truth? If

the Church tells me that the testimony Saint Matthew is to be believed, what makes it recognizable as fact? Do I believe the Church because “Well, I must believe someone!” is a kind of default position? Or do I believe in the Church because of Who founded and established it?

Have I studied the writings of the Fathers of the Church? They studied these questions in great depth, did they not? Have I read the writings of the Saints? Can I follow their thought? Do I know that it has been proven that God does, in fact, exist? Once the existence of God has been established, doesn't that make all the rest of our religion at least reasonable? Has God given me an intellect so that I might simply make religion a “Whatever!” thing? Has He given me the capacity to find the Truth and know it?

**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.