

**Meditation 2014-03-10**  
**Monday Of The First Week Of Lent**  
**Meditation Theme: “To Whom Do I Owe Charity?”**

**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 Jesus said to His disciples: When the Son of man shall come in His majesty, and all the angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the seat of His majesty. And all nations shall be gathered together before Him, and He shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on His left. Then shall the King say to them that shall be on His right hand: Come, ye blessed of My Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me to drink; I was a stranger, and you took Me in: Naked, and you covered Me: sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came to Me. Then shall the just answer him, saying: Lord, when did we see Thee hungry, and fed Thee; thirsty, and gave Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and covered Thee? Or when did we see Thee sick or in prison, and came to Thee? And the King answering, shall say to them: Amen I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these My least brethren, you did it to Me. Then He shall say to them also that shall be on his left hand: Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry, and you gave Me not to eat: I was thirsty, and you gave Me not to drink. I was a stranger, and you took Me not in: naked, and you covered Me not: sick and in prison, and you did not visit Me. Then they also shall answer him, saying: Lord, when did we see Thee hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister to Thee? Then He shall answer them, saying: Amen I say to you, as long as you did it not to one of these least, neither did you do it to Me. And these shall go into everlasting punishment: but the just, into life everlasting.

**Point 1.** – Jesus explains the spiritual difference between the “sheep” and the “goats.” The sheep are those souls who will enter into the kingdom of Heaven. The goats are those who will not.

**Point 2.** – Jesus explains that His Love is in every one of His least brethren. Whatever we do to or for the least of His brethren we do to or for Him.

**Point 3.** – A person may have, in fact, excluded Jesus from his soul through mortal sin, but we are not allowed to judge this. Even though he may be the worst sinner on the planet, Jesus still loves him, and because of this we are instructed to love him as well.

**Meditation:** Jesus will come in His majesty to judge both the living and the dead. It is He Who will separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep will hear “Come, ye blessed of My Father,

possess you the kingdom.” and the goats will hear “Depart from Me, you cursed.” And He tells us quite plainly what the separation criteria will be.

Am I a charitable person? Do I have charity? Do I practice charity? What is the difference between having and practicing? Do I love those whom Jesus has commanded me to love? Everyone? Does Jesus love everyone? Even those who do not love Him? Am I not bound to love everyone whom Jesus loves? How can I do that? Is it a warm and fuzzy type of feeling? Is love all about warm and fuzzy feelings? Or is it more correct to say that love is willing to do what love demands? What does love demand? What did Jesus do to those He loved? Did he feed the hungry? Did he cure their infirmities? Did He admonish sinners? Did He forgive them? Did he make the government give them Welfare Benefits?

Do I accomplish the Spiritual or Corporal acts of Charity? Any of them? Ever? Do I even think about doing stuff like that? For people I don't even know? How far do I still have to go to get to where Jesus has told me I should be? How do I start? Should I make a plan?

**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.