

Meditation 2014-03-12
Ember Wednesday In The First Week Of Lent
Meditation Theme: “Who Are My Brethren?”

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, some of the scribes and Pharisees answered Jesus, saying: Master we would see a sign from Thee. Who answering said to them: An evil and adulterous generation seeketh a sign: and a sign shall not be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was in the whale's belly three days and three nights: so shall the Son of man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. The men of Ninive shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they did penance at the preaching of Jonas. And behold a greater than Jonas here. The queen of the south shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold a greater than Solomon here. And when an unclean spirit is gone out of a man he walketh through dry places seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith: I will return into my house from whence I came out. And coming he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then he goeth, and taketh with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man in made worse than the first. So shall it be also to this wicked generation. As He was yet speaking to the multitudes, behold His mother and His brethren stood without, seeking to speak to Him. And one said unto Him: Behold Thy mother and Thy brethren stand without, seeking Thee. But He answering him that told him, said: Who is My mother, and who are My brethren? And stretching forth His hand towards His disciples, He said: Behold My mother and My brethren. For whosoever shall do the will of My Father, that is in heaven, he is My brother, and sister, and mother.

Point 1. – Christ’s enemies taunted Him, demanding a sign. If He would condescend to their demands, they hinted that they might then believe in Him. He calls them evil and adulterous.

Point 2. – Jesus explains how the devil works with souls. If a man be cleansed of a devil, he, the man, might very well leave his soul open and unguarded and wind up in a worse state.

Point 3. – Jesus is told that His mother and His relatives (He had no biological brothers) wanted to speak with Him, and He made the more profound statement that those who do the will of His Father are really His family.

Meditation: Jesus worked many miracles which were know far and wide, yet these Scribes and Pharisees demanded yet another sign. They wanted an additional proof, over and above the proofs they had already received. To what purpose? Did they think that Jesus would “perform”

whenever they called for it? Would such a sign have caused them to convert? Or would they have grumbled something about “trickery” and continued refusing to believe?

Do I demand continual proof? Do I accept the miracles of Jesus as they have been recorded? Do I withhold belief because He hasn’t done any miracles for me? Is Jesus bound to prove Himself to me? To anyone?

Jesus relates that the people of Nineve believed the preaching of the prophet Jonas, and did penance for their sinful ways. Do I believe in the preaching of God’s appointed messengers? Do I believe what the prophets told me? Do I believe the Apostles, who were eye-witnesses? Do I withhold belief because I have seen no signs?

Am I wary against the devil? Do I, after having been cleansed by the Sacrament of Penance, leave myself open to the re-infection of sin? When the evil has been removed from my “house,” do I bolt the door and guard it? Or do I leave it swinging open, an invitation to more evil? What does it take to guard against this? What might I do to more effectively guard my soul? Do I need help? Where can I go to get help? The Saints? My Blessed Mother? Jesus Himself?

Do I want to be a member of Jesus’ family? He tells us that all we need to do is the will of His Father Who is in Heaven. How would that benefit me? Do I have special care for the members of my family? Do I expect that Jesus would have special care for the members of His family? How do I know what is the Will of God? In general? Specifically for me? If I pray and ask that He make His Will known, will He?

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.