

Meditation 2014-03-14
Ember Friday In The First Week Of Lent
Meditation Theme: “Who Rules The Law?”

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, there was a festival day of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem a pond, called Probatika, which in Hebrew is named Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick, of blind, of lame, of withered; waiting for the moving of the water. And an angel of the Lord descended at certain times into the pond; and the water was moved. And he that went down first into the pond after the motion of the water, was made whole, of whatsoever infirmity he lay under. And there was a certain man there, that had been eight and thirty years under his infirmity. Him when Jesus had seen lying, and knew that he had been now a long time, He saith to him: Wilt thou be made whole? The infirm man answered him: Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pond. For whilst I am coming, another goeth down before me. Jesus saith to him: Arise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole: and he took up his bed, and walked. And it was the sabbath that day. The Jews therefore said to him that was healed: It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for thee to take up thy bed. He answered them: He that made me whole, He said to me, Take up thy bed, and walk. They asked him therefore: Who is that man who said to thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? But he who was healed, knew not Who it was; for Jesus went aside from the multitude standing in the place. Afterwards, Jesus findeth him in the temple, and saith to him: Behold thou art made whole: sin no more, lest some worse thing happen to thee. The man went his way, and told the Jews, that it was Jesus Who had made him whole.

Point 1. – The miracle at the Pool of Bethesda demonstrates that Jesus has dominion over the way things are normally done (the Common Law) as well as the Written Law.

Point 2. – Jesus was aware that the infirm man had been waiting for many years for a chance to be healed. He was under no obligation to heal the man. The infirm man was, in fact, under an obligation to bear up under his sufferings.

Point 3. – God had established the miraculous healings at the Pool. He had set an ordinary way for it to happen. Jesus did not change this ordinary way, He simply went around it. He healed the infirm man without making the infirm man do the ordinarily required thing.

Point 4. – Jesus never concerned Himself with such things as “healing on the Sabbath.” It was men who considered this to be a violation of the Law. Jesus, Who absolutely owns the Law, is never bound by what men believe it says.

Meditation: The Miracle at Bethsaida tells me that Jesus can do whatever He wishes to do. He is not bound by the laws that men create, or even by the laws that He creates. He cannot, however, go against His nature, which is Goodness. He cannot do evil, not because He hasn't the power, but rather because it is not part of the Divine nature.

Do I ever envy others whose fortune in life seems better than mine? Do I always seem to be the last to "get into the water?" Does my own infirmity (spiritual as well as physical) keep me from accessing grace? How can I get to Heaven if the less infirm always seem to get there first? Is this something that I might justly complain about?

In what does my infirmity consist? Does my spiritual inability to dash forward come from my own fault? Or is it part of my nature? If I cannot understand what it is that is holding me back, do I complain about not understanding? Is there anything I can do to remedy this? Or do I have to wait for a gratuitous movement from God?

God knows that I am infirm. He knows that I cannot dash forward the way others can. Do I trust that Jesus will help me? Do I trust that He will provide me a means to reach Heaven? Do I understand that I cannot get there by myself, even though my infirmities be small? Should I ask for this help? Do I not need to ask? Will Jesus provide assistance unless I ask? Does asking take effort? Does it hurt to be humble? If humility goes against my pride, does that make we want to not be humble?

If God gives me good things, or does me good favors, do I praise Him for it? Publicly? Do I tell others that He is the One who has given me these good things, these good graces? Do I spread the word; do I broadcast my good fortune? Should I? Will I?

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.