

Meditation 2014-03-17
Monday Of The Second Week Of Lent
Meditation Theme: “Who Does Jesus Say That He Is?”

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 Jesus said to the multitudes of the Jews: I go, and you shall seek Me, and you shall die in your sin. Whither I go, you cannot come. The Jews therefore said: Will He kill Himself, because He said: Whither I go, you cannot come? And He said to them: You are from beneath, I am from above. You are of this world, I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you, that you shall die in your sins. For if you believe not that I am He, you shall die in your sin. They said therefore to Him: Who art Thou? Jesus said to them: The beginning, Who also speak unto you. Many things I have to speak and to judge of you. But He that sent Me, is true: and the things I have heard of Him, these same I speak in the world. And they understood not, that He called God His Father. Jesus therefore said to them: When you shall have lifted up the Son of man, then shall you know, that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself, but as the Father hath taught Me, these things I speak: And He that sent Me, is with Me, and He hath not left Me alone: for I do always the things that please Him.

Point 1. – Jesus tells the Jews, in no uncertain terms, that He is the Messiah. He tells them what their fate will be if they do not believe Him.

Point 2. – Jesus testifies to the relationship He has with God the Father. The Father sent Jesus to tell the world about Him, and that is exactly what Jesus does.

Point 3. – Jesus tells the Jews that no-one will know Him until they have lifted Him up.

Point 4. – Jesus and the Father are always together, never apart. Jesus knows, and therefore does, what pleases God the Father.

Meditation: Jesus boldly tells the Jews “I am He!” And they wonder at what He says. They ask questions about what He says. But they do not believe Him.

Do I believe Him? Can I accept that Jesus is “He?” What about Him would make me less than believing? What about Him makes me believe? Is it what He says in itself? Is it the way he tells of His Father? Is it the warnings He gives for those who will not believe? Would I believe just anyone who says that he is the Messiah? What would a person have to be like for me to believe? Is Jesus like that?

Is Jesus reasonable in what he says? Does what He says defy reason? If the one, true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, exists, does that mean that all the rest is at least reasonable? Would believing it violate any natural laws? The Jews know from their Scriptures that there is a Messiah. When Jesus tells them that He is the Messiah, do they believe Him? Why not? Do I

think that what Jesus says is outside of reason? Does it make no sense? Does it strike me as being false?

The Jews had never been told about the Trinity. Would they have been unbelieving if one of the Prophets had told them? Jesus tells them that He is the Son of God the Father. Was there anything manifestly impossible about that? Does it absolutely defy belief? Or does it simply not fit a preconception? Does believing that Jesus is the Son of God require that I suspend my reasoning ability? Does the Trinity violate reason? Even if I can never understand the concept of a Triune God, can I at least reasonably accept it?

What benefit can I gain by believing that Jesus is the Messiah? What might I lose if it is true but I choose to not believe?

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.