

Meditation 2014-03-18
Tuesday Of The Second Week Of Lent
Meditation Theme: “Do as I say, not as I do!”

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 spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: The scribes and the Pharisees have sitten on the chair of Moses. All things therefore whatsoever they shall say to you, observe and do: but according to their works do ye not; for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy and insupportable burdens, and lay them on men's shoulders; but with a finger of their own they will not move them. And all their works they do for to be seen of men. For they make their phylacteries broad, and enlarge their fringes. And they love the first places at feasts, and the first chairs in the synagogues, and salutations in the market place, and to be called by men, Rabbi. But be not you called Rabbi. For one is your master; and all you are brethren. And call none your father upon earth; for one is your father, who is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters; for one is your master, Christ. He that is the greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be humbled: and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Point 1. – Jesus explains the difference between the Office of men and the example they give publicly. The Pharisees relate the Law correctly, but the do not live the Law.

Point 2. – The Pharisees (examples not to be followed) do things that draw attention and honor to themselves. Jesus tells us not to do likewise.

Point 3. – Jesus tells us not to seek the respect of men, because it is nowhere near the value of the love of God.

Meditation: Jesus tells us that the Pharisees are not to be emulated. The things they do are meant to attract the attention of other men, so that other men will think they are holy. They make a grand show of their piety.

Do I do things like this? In Church, do I act piously just to be so, or do I hope to show others that I am pious? What is the purpose of the example I give? Am I appearing to pay strict attention because I am, or do I want everyone else to think I am? If I am quite and attentive, will my children copy me and be quite and attentive too? Is that a bad thing to do? Is there a difference between being a role-model and being a show-off? How fine is the line between them?

God tells us to give no undo honor to other men, because all that is good we owe to God. Do I use titles of praise to show how great I think they are? Are the Ecclesiastical titles I use, “Father,” “Your Excellency,” and the like meant as Praise of Person or Respect of Office? What

is the difference between Praise and Respect? Does calling a Priest “Father” mean that I think he is the same as God the Father? If I know a Priest is personally a bad man, wouldn’t I still call him “Father?” Does doing so violate the instruction that Jesus gave me? Why? Why not?

Do I practice the virtue of humility? What does a person have to do to be humble? Am I required to be unaware of any virtue that I may have, or do I simply not brag about it? Do I shun the praise of men? If I am praised by men, do I like it? Do I seek it out? Do I do good works in secret so that nobody knows it was me who did them? Do I give without expecting anything in return? Do I demand gratitude? Do I give gratitude to God?

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.