

Meditation 2014-03-19
Wednesday Of The Second Week Of Lent
Meditation Theme: “Do I Get A High Place In Heaven?”

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 as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples apart, and said to them: Behold we go up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man shall be betrayed to the chief priests and the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death. And shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to be mocked, and scourged, and crucified, and the third day He shall rise again. Then came to Him the mother of the sons of Zebedee with her sons, adoring and asking something of Him. Who said to her: What wilt thou? She saith to Him: Say that these my two sons may sit, the one on Thy right hand, and the other on Thy left, in Thy kingdom. And Jesus answering, said: You know not what you ask. Can you drink the chalice that I shall drink? They say to Him: We can. He saith to them: My chalice indeed you shall drink; but to sit on My right or left hand, is not Mine to give to you, but to them for whom it is prepared by My Father. And the ten hearing it, were moved with indignation against the two brethren. But Jesus called them to Him, and said: You know that the princes of the Gentiles lord it over them; and they that are the greater, exercise power upon them. It shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be the greater among you, let him be your minister: And he that will be first among you, shall be your servant. Even as the Son of man is not come to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a redemption for many.

Point 1. – Jesus explains to the disciples what is going to happen to Him. They don’t really understand.

Point 2. – The brothers James and John are put forward by their mother, who thinks they should be eligible for the highest places in Heaven.

Point 3. – Jesus tells us that love of and service to our brethren is what will be rewarded. God the Father has perfect foreknowledge of who will have the higher places in His Kingdom.

Meditation: The mother of the sons of Zebedee believes that her sons are the best, and should be given appropriate rewards for being the best. She displays a natural bias.

Am I biased? Do I think I am pretty good? Do I think I am great? Do I ever think that others might be better than I am? Do I ever stop to consider that, being unable to see other men’s souls, I may not be as well positioned as I think I am?

Do I want a high place in Heaven? Do I think I deserve it? Have I earned it? Jesus tells me what the criteria are for the highest places. Is this me he speaks about? Do I serve Him the way he describes? Do I serve others, whom Jesus loves very much? Most of the time? At every opportunity? Do I minister to their needs? Spiritual as well as temporal?

When I minister to others, even as Jesus tells me to do, why do I do it? Do I do it to earn a reward? Do I do it simply because Jesus told me to do it? Do I do it simply because it is the right thing to do? Am I in the habit of doing the right thing? Do I have to think about it first, or do I just minister to others because it is what I always do? What is the more perfect attitude to have? How can I make myself adopt the more perfect attitude? Will Jesus help me? Should I have to ask Him? Do I have to ask Him?

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.