

Meditation 2014-03-20
Thursday Of The Second Week Of Lent
Meditation Theme: "How Final is Final?"

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 Pharisees: There was a certain rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen; and feasted sumptuously every day. And there was a certain beggar, named Lazarus, who lay at his gate, full of sores, desiring to be filled with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, and no one did give him; moreover the dogs came, and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. And the rich man also died: and he was buried in hell. And lifting up his eyes when he was in torments, he saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom: And he cried, and said: Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, to cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame. And Abraham said to him: Son, remember that thou didst receive good things in thy lifetime, and likewise Lazareth evil things, but now he is comforted; and thou art tormented. And besides all this, between us and you, there is fixed a great chaos: so that they who would pass from hence to you, cannot, nor from thence come hither. And he said: Then, father, I beseech thee, that thou wouldst send him to my father's house, for I have five brethren, that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torments. And Abraham said to him: They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. But he said: No, father Abraham: but if one went to them from the dead, they will do penance. And he said to him: If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they believe, if one rise again from the dead.

Point 1. – Jesus explains to the Pharisees that the rich generally do not do what they ought to do. It is assumed that the Pharisees were expected to see themselves in Dives (the rich man).

Point 2. – Jesus explains that our final reward is just that, final. In heaven, though the Saints, in charity, might gladly give aid to the suffering, they cannot. The condemned, beseech though they might, will receive no comfort.

Point 3. – Jesus prophesies that the Pharisees, even though the Law and the Prophets give them what they need, and being stubborn in their disregard of the Will of God, will refuse to believe, even when He has risen from the dead.

Meditation: The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus is presented as a scenario that everyone will recognize. The Pharisees are expected to see themselves here.

Am I a Pharisee? Do I enjoy the good things of life? Is it a sin to enjoy the good things of life that God has provided? Do I remember to thank Him for them? Do I remember to notice others

who do not have so much? Are there other who have more than I have? Do I envy them? Do I wish I had as much as they have? Do I ever think that, even though I may not have so much, there are others who have less?

Do I do my best to keep what I have for myself? Do I share my good fortune only with those who deserve it? How should I share? Should I go out on the street and give all my money away? Should I only give it to those who look destitute? Who among them needs it most? Who among them deserves it most? Do I have a way of knowing? And how much should I keep for myself? Need I make myself as destitute as those I seek to assist?

How much of my substance should I share? How can I find out? Do I have a plan? Should I have a plan? Who can help me make a plan? And once a plan is made, who can help me stick to it? And should I do this to stay out of Hell? Should I do this because it will get me to Heaven? Or should I do this just because I know Jesus wants me to do it?

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.