

**Meditation 2014-03-22**  
**Saturday Of The Second Week Of Lent**  
**Meditation Theme: “Can I Take Care Of Myself?”**

**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

**A**T that time Jesus spoke to the Pharisees and scribes this parable: A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father: Father, give me the portion of substance that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his substance. And not many days after, the younger son, gathering all together, went abroad into a far country: and there wasted his substance, living riotously. And after he had spent all, there came a mighty famine in that country; and he began to be in want. And he went and cleaved to one of the citizens of that country. And he sent him into his farm to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks the swine did eat; and no man gave unto him. And returning to himself, he said: How many hired servants in my father's house abound with bread, and I here perish with hunger? I will arise, and will go to my father, and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee: I am not worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And rising up he came to his father. And when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and running to him fell upon his neck, and kissed him. And the son said to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, I am not now worthy to be called thy son. And the father said to his servants: Bring forth quickly the first robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it, and let us eat and make merry: because this my son was dead, and is come to life again: was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. Now his elder son was in the field, and when he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing: And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said to him: Thy brother is come, and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe. And he was angry, and would not go in. His father therefore coming out began to entreat him. And he answering, said to his father: Behold, for so many years do I serve thee, and I have never transgressed thy commandment, and yet thou hast never given me a kid to make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son is come, who hath devoured his substance with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. But he said to him: Son, thou art always with me, and all I have is thine. But it was fit that we should make merry and be glad, for this thy brother was dead and is come to life again; he was lost, and is found.

**Point 1.** – Jesus relates a parable that instructs us on several points. The younger son demands what is his portion of his father’s estate as if his father owed him a debt.

**Point 2.** – The younger son takes of his father and wastes it all most unwisely, not using his wealth “responsibly.”

**Point 3.** – The elder son thinks that his father’s joy at his younger son’s return is an insult to himself, who has never done so badly. The father explains that he takes nothing from the elder son by rejoicing at the younger’s salvation.

**Meditation:** The parable teaches us about ingratitude, repentance, forgiveness, and charity.

Am I so foolish as to think I could never fall into a sinful life if I had the means? Do I think I could do well as a wealthy person? Am I so different from the younger son? Did he foresee how he would end up? And even if he had spent his substance more slowly would he not have eventually wound up in the same state? Do I ever daydream about all the nice things that I would buy if I ever won the “Big One?” Would any of it be a help toward Heaven?

Do I have means now? How do I spend it? Do I buy only the necessities of life? Food and shelter? How about entertainment? Do I pay money for stuff like Netflix? Will it help me get to Heaven?

Do I share with others? Do I share my money? Do I share only my money? Do I share my time too?

Do I have to hit bottom before I recognize my failures? Do I even bother to look and see just how quickly I may be hurtling toward the side of the mountain? If I am headed for a crash landing, do I know it? Could I recognize it if I tried?

Do I ask pardon of those whom I have offended? Do I forgive those who have offended me? Do I believe that God should love me more for my whole life of goodness than He loves the just-returned sinner? Does God expect me to love the just-returned sinner as much as He does? Does God love the yet-to-return sinner too? Should I? Do I resent the graces God gives to others? Do I think God could ever treat me unjustly? God has promised that He will offer me everything I need to get to Heaven. Do I believe 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.