

Meditation 2014-03-24
Monday Of The Third Week Of Lent
Meditation Theme: “Why Miracles?”

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: Doubtless you will say to Me this similitude: Physician, heal thyself: as great things as we have heard done in Capharnaum, do also here in Thy own country. And he said: Amen I say to you, that no prophet is accepted in his own country. In truth I say to you, there were many widows in the days of Elias in Israel, when heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there was a great famine throughout all the earth. And to none of them was Elias sent, but to Sarepta of Sidon, to a widow woman. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet: and none of them was cleansed but Naaman the Syrian. And all they in the synagogue, hearing these things, were filled with anger. And they rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they brought Him to the brow of the hill, whereon their city was built, that they might cast Him down headlong. But He passing through the midst of them, went His way.

Point 1. – Jesus tells the Pharisees that He was not there to work miracles, to heal, or to restore as many individuals as possible.

Point 2. – Jesus tells the Pharisees that even the ones they had to acknowledge as Prophets from God did not come only to console or to cure. There were many miracles they might have worked, but they didn’t because their mission was not to work miracles.

Point 3. – Jesus tells the Pharisees that He has a similar mission, and it is not to relieve the suffering of all and sundry. He works His miracles only as a means to point people toward God. He draws parallels between Himself and the Prophets, and the Pharisees, angry at His having done so, attempt to kill Him; but He, demonstrating that He has the power to deny this to them, simply leaves them.

Meditation: Jesus teaches us the Pharisees about His mission. He did not come to cure everyone’s ills. He did not come to relieve everyone’s suffering. His miracles, while accomplishing that end for those He cures or relieves, are meant for something else as well.

Do I understand why Jesus worked the miracles He did? Do I, like the people who were there, have the choice to believe that Jesus is from God? That Jesus is God? Do I believe that Jesus actually did these things? If He did these things, could He not be the Son of God? Would that defy logic?

People say that since He could not have done these things that the stories of the miracles are untrue. How do they know that He could not have done these things? Are they basing their “He could not” upon their refusal to believe that He is the Son of God, and if He was not the Son of

God, He could not have done these things? Can I comprehend the circularity of that type of logic? Could I believe that all of the Evangelists got together and conspired to tell the same lies?

If Jesus really did work miracles, why did He work them if He didn't want to work them for everyone? Why was He selective? Did He work miracles for people who first refused to believe in Him? Jesus said "Thy Faith hath made thee safe," "Thy Faith hath made the whole," "I have not found so great Faith in Israel." Is there a link between His miracles and the expressions of Faith? Do His miracles point out the benefits of Faith? Do the Gospels portray Him working miracles for those who do not have Faith? If I have Faith, do I then expect miracles to be worked for me? Do I lose Faith if they are not?

Do I have Faith? Do I believe that Jesus is the Son of God? How strongly? Strongly enough? Can I make my Faith stronger? How? Will my Faith be stronger if I ask for it in prayer?

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.