

Oblate Lenten Reflections

2010

Week 2

“Lent in some sense is a plunge into a thicket, a sustained time in a wilderness place. But few of us can put aside forty days...as a time of full retreat. Instead, we visit the wilderness without leaving our daily lives. We spend an intentional time with Jesus, entering his wilderness, walking with him, and, finally, sharing his Passion. Lent is a time when we deepen our faith in a journey not of grand gestures but of small surrenders.” Emilie Griffin, Small Surrenders, A Lenten Journey

Second Sunday of Lent –Feb. 28, 2010

Genesis: 15: 5-12, 17-18, Philippians 3: 17-4:1, Luke 9:28-36

“Stand firm in the Lord.” “He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body.” “...but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory...”

“At the center of our being is a point of nothingness...It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it we would see these billion points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely...I have no program for this seeing. It is only given. But the gate of heaven is everywhere.”

Thomas Merton

Monday, Mar. 1, 2010

Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38

“But yours, O Lord, our God, are compassion and forgiveness.”

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

A story from Theophane the Monk

I thought it good fortune to go to the Magic Monastery for Easter. But at the foot of the hill sat a blind beggar, and when I drew near to give him some money, I heard him ask, “Who will lead me into the heart of God?”

I couldn’t go on. Who would lead him into the heart of God?

I sat down in front of him. I took his hands. “Together we’ll go into the heart of God.”

Tuesday, Mar. 2, 2010

Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12

“Listen to the instruction of our God.”

“...do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example.”

RB 7:55 The Eighth Step of Humility

The eighth step of humility is that a monk does only what is endorsed by the common rule of the monastery and the example set by his superiors.

“Do not seek illumination unless you seek it as a man whose hair is on fire seeks a pond.” Sri Ramakrishna

Wednesday, Mar. 3, 2010

Jeremiah 18: 18-20, Matthew 20: 17-28

“Remember that I stand before you to speak in their behalf...”

“Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?”

“Leave off your mad rush for gold and jewels-

I’ve got something far more precious for you:

A bright pearl that sparkles more brilliantly than the sun and moon

And illuminates each and every eye.

Lose it and you’ll wallow in a sea of pain;

Find it and you’ll safely reach the other shore.

I’d freely present this treasure to anyone

But hardly anyone asks for it.” Ryokan

How are you being called to serve?

Thursday, Mar. 4, 2010

Jeremiah 17: 5-10, Luke 16: 19-31

“I, the Lord, alone probe the mind and test the heart.”

“They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.”

Jesus exhorts us to follow the WAY now as we walk our days on earth.

How is your life poor like that of Lazarus?

How is your life like the rich man dressed in fine garments, enjoying fine dining?

“Benedict says, “Listen.” Pay attention to the instructions in this rule and attend to the important things in life. Let nothing go by without being open to being nourished by the inner meaning of that event in life. There is an Oriental proverb that teaches; “Take from death before it takes from thee.” If we do not live life consciously, in other words, we may not be living at all.” Joan Chittister, The Rule of Benedict Insights for the Ages

Friday, Mar. 5, 2010

Genesis: 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21: 33-43, 45-46

There were plots against Joseph, the dreamer, and Jesus, the Prophet.

Have you ever been plotted against? Have you ever plotted against others?

“Therefore, I say to you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit?”

How can you be a better tenant of God’s creation?

“A hermit defined the life of a monk in these ways:

Work

Obedience

Meditation

Avoiding passing judgment

Not speaking evil

Not complaining

Avoiding the wicked

Seeing no evil

Limiting curiosity

Avoiding gossip

Using hands for giving rather than taking

Avoiding bad thoughts

Eating lightly

Making good choices. Bernard Bangley, By Way of the Desert

Saturday Mar. 6, 2010

Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20, Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

“Who is there like you, the God who removes guilt and pardons sin?”

“...his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion.”

**“What did the pigs teach you,
in that land of illusions,
younger, now wiser son?”**

**Elder and longer loved,
resentment no way
to come to a party.**

**A prodigal father,
extravagant in joy and mercy,
sounds like heaven.”** Robert Morneau, *Ashes to Easter*

“And finally, never lose hope in God’s mercy.” RB 4: 74



Location
St. Walburga Abbey
Eichstatt, Germany

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