

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

JUNE 25, 2017 – 12TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Sacred Scripture Part IV

Here is another quote from St. Gregory about Sacred Scripture: The Holy Bible is like a mirror before our mind's eye. In it we see our inner face. From the Scriptures we can learn our spiritual deformities and beauties. And there too we discover the progress we are making and how far we are from perfection.

9. Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

The world Bible can form an interesting acronym Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth in the English Language and this can be a helpful reminder for us that the Bible is suppose to invoke in us a response a change of attitude. If we read the Bible and do not find it calling us to change a part or life for the better then we need to reread the passage again.

This probably nowhere more evident to us then in the Sermon on the Mount and the giving of the Beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 5) Jesus sets out a series of eight statements redefining what it means to be blest or to be successful and these eight statements go against what the world tells us will lead to happiness.

10. Even the Devil Can Quote Scripture

Finally when we read the Sacred Scripture it is important to once again do so in the context of the faith community the Church. We see in the Gospel stories where Jesus is tempted in the desert by the devil himself that even the devil can try to use Scripture for his own evil purpose. Therefore, Sacred Scripture needs to be read and pondered under the light of Tradition.

The following are a list of sayings that someone gave me that concern Sacred Scripture.

1. A Bible in the hand is worth two in the bookcase.
2. Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them.
3. The Bible was given to us to tell us how we can get to heaven, not to tell us how the heavens work.
4. "Most people are troubled by those passages of Scripture which they cannot understand; but as for me, I have always noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those which I do understand." - Mark Twain

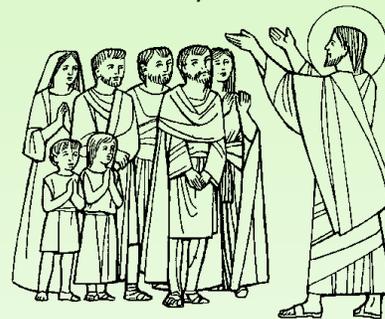
12th Sunday Ordinary Time
Lectionary: 94 Gospel MT
10:26-33

Spiritual Reflection:

The value of a human person does not fluctuate with the market like the value of a house or depreciate the more it is used like a car.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What are some ways in which you place a value on others?
2. How do others judge your worth?
3. How do you judge your worth?
4. How does God judge your worth?
5. How can you show others what they are worth?



5. "The Devil is not afraid of the Bible that has dust on it"
6. "The new Testament is the very best book that ever was or will be known in the world." - Charles Dickens
7. "Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face." — Ronald

Reagan

8. "If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself." — Augustine of Hippo

9. "A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't." - Charles H. Spurgeon

10. We were given the Scriptures to humble us into realizing that God is right, and the

rest of us are just guessing." — Rich Mullins

Finally, I would like to conclude this reflection with the following prayer that someone gave me:

Our Father, who art in heaven, sacred is Your Word, Your kingdom come, Your Words be heard on earth as they are in heaven. Give us today Your Sacred Word. Forgive our neglect of it in the past as we forgive those who neglect us. Lead us toward an

encounter with You each time we delve into the Scriptures. For Your presence, Your power, and Your glory are ever present among us now and forever. Amen.



PRAYER(S) OF THE WEEK

Prayers to Pray Before and After Reading Scripture

A PRAYER FOR BIBLICAL INSIGHT

O Jesus, greatest Teacher of all times, Thank you for Your gift of the Holy Bible. You inspired the prophets and the apostles, Guiding them to eternalize the Sacred Word. Always maintain my faith in the Holy Word, Believing it originated from the Holy Spirit, Not authored by man as false teachers allege. Continue to guide me through its Books, Granting me the required insight and wisdom To thoroughly digest Your many mysteries. Thank you for these righteous teachings. Your generosity is superabundant!

PRAYER TO SAY BEFORE SCRIPTURE

Lord, open our hearts:
Let Your Spirit speak to us
As we read Your Word.

PRAYER BEFORE READING SCRIPTURE by Origin

Lord, inspire me to read your Scriptures and to meditate upon them day and night. I beg you to give me real understanding of what I need, that I in turn may put its precepts into practice. Yet, I know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love. So I ask that the words of Scripture may

also be not just signs on a page, but channels of grace into my heart. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAY AFTER SCRIPTURE

Father, we thank you For speaking to us today Through Your Holy Word.



Catholic Quiz



Last Week's Answers: Answer the following questions

1. What color(s) is the Papal Flag? A: Yellow & White
2. What is a Church Amassador called? A: Apostolic Nuncio
3. When does a Cardinal become to old to vote for the next pope? A: 80
4. Who choses who gets to be a cardinal? A: any cleric who the pope appoints.



Match the Saint with his or her quote

1. ____ It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.

faith, no explanation is possible.

3. ____ Love to be real, it must cost—it must hurt—it must empty us of self.

4. ____ We are to love God for Himself, because of a twofold reason; nothing is more reasonable, nothing more profitable.

A=St. Bernard of Clairvaux

B=St. Thomas Aquinas

C=Mother Teresa

D=St. Augustine

CATHOLIC HUMOR

Catholic Laughs

How do you make holy water? A: *Boil the hell out of it.*

A: *The spiritual director.*

What do you call a sleepwalking nun? A: A *“roamin” Catholic.*

What do you call a Catholic service that is very very important? A *Critical Mass.*



What do you call a priest in charge of the school play?

CATHOLIC QUOTES

Pure love ... knows that only one thing is needed to please God: to do even the smallest things out of great love - love, and always love. --Divine Mercy in My Soul, St. Faustina

"The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist." --Pope St. Gregory the Great

"Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next door neighbor... Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting." --Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

The things that we love tell us what we are. --Saint Thomas Aquinas

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like." --St. Augustine of Hippo

Spiritual Adoption Prayer



“Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of [baby’s name] the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.” - Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

MONTH 6 – Developing Baby – “I’m sitting up straight now!” Spiritual Adoption Program

Your spiritually adopted baby is developing quite beautifully now. Her weight is approaching 2 pounds. She sits up straight now to accommodate her internal organs which have moved into their final place in her little body. Babies born prematurely at this time have a very good chance of surviving. The medical advances in caring for extremely small newborn infants are extraordinary indeed. Don’t forget to pray for your baby. Abortion is legal through all nine months and her mom might still feel pressure to abort.

May Jesus Christ Be Praised
