



e - Votion



EVOTION FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 29, 2014

Dear Friends,

Today I am reading Matthew
5:1-12:

*When Jesus saw the crowds,
he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his
disciples came to him. Then
he began to speak, and
taught them saying:*

*"Blessed are the poor in
spirit, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who
mourn, for they will be
comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for
they will inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will be filled.*

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you
falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way
they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (holiness); Blessed are those who show mercy; Blessed are the peacemakers.

This coming Sunday is All Saints' Sunday. In 835, Pope Gregory IV established November 1 as All Saints' Day, with the following Sunday being All Saints Sunday. The idea was to have a day of celebration and commemoration of all the saints of God--both those we know and all the unknown-- a party for those who shared in the mystery and continuity of resurrection eternity!

But... its hard for many of us to get into the party mode because the saints are pretty far removed from our daily lives. The theme of "All Saints Day" takes on a musty air, something like peeking into a dusty attic.



Saints are from a different time in many ways-- part of church history, but how relevant are they to the bottom line of every day?

I remember a discussion one time about "Saints" and who they are-- and basically it boiled down to "People who are deified, dead, or different."

The saints who are deified are those who seem godlike in personality. We think of them as people who walked around with halos on; the superstars of piety. Saint John. Saint Mark. Saint Augustine. Saint Francis. They are people far removed from us in time.

Then there are the saints who are dead, those people who died for their faith and were persecuted; like Saint Stephen and Saint Peter, but also Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Oscar Romero.

Then the different ones-- the people willing to go against the flow of the ordinary, to sacrifice their lives for their faith. I would put Mother Teresa in this category. She lived out her life as part of a religious order serving in the slums of India where human need and desperation were at their worst. She was definitely different-- she sacrificed what we call pleasure and comfort and success so she could minister to those in physical need. She forsook her biological family, her personal safety, her possessions and spent her days in prayer and caring for others. Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize.

One thing we often forget is that all the people we call "Saints" were people just like us. Perhaps some of their actions were Godlike, or in their relationships with people, Christ-like, but they also were humans of limitations and separation, just like us.

We all have some saints living in our midst; people who know who are living out their faith in actions and philosophies that are contrary to society's expectations or are based on ego or self-interest. When a person's actions are in the center of God's will, they serve to connect us to God through their very presence.

We can be challenged by the saints around us! Hopefully, from time to time, we can reexamine our contacts with other people, our social transactions, our family lives, the way we vote, spend money and use our free time. All Saints is a day to ask ourselves if we are putting our integrity out there for others to see. As sinners, we pray for God's guidance, God's direction, God's strength, and God's forgiveness so that our lives together will form the Body of Christ in this place.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Barbara Marrs
- Luanne Love
- Lou Falls
- Evelyn Moore
- Jane Eddy, surgery this Friday
- Nancy McMann
- Lorena Hess

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Trunk of Treats tonight, 5:30 at the church. We hope to still be able to have it in the parking lot.

- Worship Pillar meets Monday November 3 at 7 pm
- Finance Committee meets Thursday November 6 at 6:30 pm
- Our Charge Conference will be held SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2 pm at Munsey Memorial UMC.
- Please pick up a box for Operation Christmas Child and fill it! Our goal is 250 this year. If you can't fill a box, you can donate to the church. It takes a little more than \$10.00 to fill a box.

"Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

St Francis of Assisi

Blessings,

Jane Taylor
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