

Week Eleven

After the Exercises

Indifference to One's Reputation

How to use this booklet:

These passages have been chosen to underscore a theme that is very important in Ignatian Spirituality and in our walk with Jesus. The general direction of prayer that is envisioned by this booklet is one of Lectio Divina. In this method, the passage one reads is meant to help one to reflect, then to move into prayer with God and then to move into a silent and deep communion with God. This trajectory has been described as a ladder: reading—thinking—praying—contemplating. As one finds oneself distracted at any time in the prayer, one simply goes back to reading the passage, letting the words open us to thinking and praying and contemplating. One might end up reading the passage many times or one might not be able to get through the passage because one stops to think, pray and/contemplate so frequently.

You might want to use one passage all week long, rotate through them or repeat one or another of them. There should be enough material to help someone pray for one week.

You probably want to give yourself at least 30 minutes for this.

Preparatory Prayer:

Ask the Lord to help you to find Him more fully in all the aspects of your life.

Lectio Divina:

Read the passage that you choose, stopping as soon as you feel drawn to reflect on the passage or you feel moved to pray. Let go of your sense of wanting to learn or to finish the passage, but instead desire to be open to God and, if you feel a call to just sit quietly in the presence of God, indulge in that. As you get distracted, return gently to the passage and read some more or read parts of it again. Distractions are natural.

Conclusion:

Thank God for your time and be specific about a time or two that you felt the grace of God or felt touched by God's wisdom.

From an Essay on St. Ignatius:

St. Ignatius said that, if the salvation of souls were at stake, he would be ready at any time to walk through the streets in bare feet or fitted with horns. He would not be ashamed to wear any sort of ridiculous or shabby clothes were it to be of use to <souls>- and he proved this in deeds whenever an opportunity presented itself.

<I>t was Ignatius' desire to be buried secretly after his death somewhere on a dung-heap, for he said that he had never been anything else but refuse and dung.

In the records of Ignatius' canonization process there is this statement . . . "Cupiebat omnibus ludibrio esse," he desired to be an object of derision to everyone.

Psalm 69

Save me, O God,

for the waters have come up to my neck.

² I sink in deep mire,

where there is no foothold.

I have come into the deep waters;

the flood sweeps over me.

³ I am weary with my crying;
my throat is parched.

My eyes fail,
looking for my God.

⁴ Those who hate me without reason
outnumber the hairs of my head;
many are my enemies without cause,
those who seek to destroy me.

I am forced to restore
what I did not steal.

⁵ You, God, know my folly;
my guilt is not hidden from you.

⁶ Lord, the LORD Almighty,
may those who hope in you
not be disgraced because of me;
God of Israel,
may those who seek you
not be put to shame because of me.

⁷ For I endure scorn for your sake,
and shame covers my face.

⁸ I am a foreigner to my own family,
a stranger to my own mother's children;

⁹ for zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on
me.

Thomas A Kempis: The Imitation of Christ

From Chapter 7 – About False Confidence, and How to
Get Rid of Self-Conceit

It is nonsense to depend for your happiness on your fellow men, or on created things. What does it matter if you have to be the servant of others, and pass for a poor man in the world's eyes? It is nothing to be ashamed of if you do it for the love of Jesus Christ. Why all this self-importance? Leave everything to God, and he will make the most of your good intentions.

Put no confidence in the knowledge you have acquired, or in the skill of any human counselor; rely on God's grace - He brings aid to the humble and only humiliation to the self-confident.

Matthew 5:11-12

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.