**Wednesday**

**God’s Forgiveness**



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**Reflecting on:**

**“Forgiven Much – God’s Forgiveness”**

**Readings:**

Luke 7: 36 – 8: 3

**Other Readings:**

2 Samuel 12: 7-10, 13; Psalm 32: 1-2, 5, 7, 11; Galatians 2: 16, 19-21

**1. Lectio:** The Lord Jesus is invited for a meal by Simon the Pharisee. At that time, rich people would have eaten reclining on couches at a low table with their feet pointing away from the table.

A woman, probable a prostitute, washes Jesus’ feet with her tears, dries them with her hair, kisses them and then anoints them with perfume. This would have been socially unacceptable. Simon judges them both, but judges Jesus even more than the woman because he did not stop them.

Jesus is fully aware what Simon is thinking. So he tells a parable about two people being forgiven debts they could not repay. Jesus makes the point that we are all sinners in need of forgiveness. The woman’s actions show the sincerity of her repentance, her faith in Jesus, and love for him.

Luke then draws attention to the role of women in Jesus’ ministry, naming three who travelled with him and the disciples while they preached the gospel. He also adds that many women supported Jesus’ ministry from their resources, probably with food and money.

**2. Meditatio:**

**\*** In what way does Simon misjudge both Jesus and the woman?

**\*** Consider the impact this encounter might have had on Simon, the other guests and the woman. What can we learn from this parable?

**\*** Do you feel you have been forgiven much or just a little for your sins?

**3. Oratio:**

Praise God, Jesus will cancel out our sins if we repent. Pray through the verses from Psalm 32. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the real nature of grace.

**4. Contemplatio:**

Contemplate Jesus’ sacrifice for you and God’s gift of forgiveness. Consider what it means to live for God, not for yourself.

* **Prayer of the Day**

Lord, my God,

Give me strength of spirit

so as to see the ugliness of the sins I have committed

and give me the courage

to feel shame for them.

Help me to be determined to keep away from doing bad things

that make my soul impure.

Teach me to weep for the hurt and harm

I have sinfully inflicted on others.

I know that You are merciful and forgiving.

But if I know of your love and forgiving mercy

and continue to cling to the attractions and temptations of the world,

then my soul will be still in the darkness of impurity.

Please, Lord, help me to love you with the clarity

and holiness of my heart and soul. Amen.

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**Reflecting on:**

**“Lost and Found – The Prodigal Son”**

**Readings:**

Luke 15: 1-3; 11-32

**Other Readings:**

Joshua 5: 9-12; Psalm 33: 2-7; 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

**1. Lectio:** This parable is one of the best known illustrations of God’s love and mercy. It shows Jesus’ love for sinners is rooted in God the Father’s love.

The story speeds through the younger son’s squandering of his inheritance, humiliation, repentance and decision to risk returning home.

The father welcomes his son back with open arms and throws a feast to celebrate. Not so the older brother, who resents his father’s lavish forgiveness.

**2. Meditatio:**

**\*** Make a list of the different challenges the two sons faced.

**\*** Which son do you identify with most? What does this passage have to say to you?

**\*** What can we learn from the actions of the father?

**3. Oratio:**

Prayerfully read 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21.

Ask the Holy Spirit what to pray and then respond to his leading.

**4. Contemplatio:**

- Consider the father’s great love for both his sons.

- Now think about God’s love for you.

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