

Space for God The Least of These

PREPARATION

Jesus spoke:

This is my commandment: **Love each other in the same way I have loved you.** John 15:12

CONFESSION

Sodom's sins were pride, gluttony, and laziness, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door. Ezekiel 16:49

Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need. Proverbs 21:13

ADORATION & GRATITUDE

Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy! Let the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he is coming!

He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with his truth. Psalm 96:12-13

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION—Matthew 25:31-46

"But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

"Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read Slowly, several times.

Reflect What does the text say?

Respond How does it relate to my life?

Rest I welcome God's healing and renewal.

"Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. I was a

stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

"Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?'

"And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'

"And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

ANCHORING PRAYER *Lord, I bless my brothers and sisters in Your name.*

REVIEW OF THE HEART

How did I help or care for someone in need?

Who have I overlooked or ignored?

WISDOM

...for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to his voice today! Psalm 95:7

If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord—and he will repay you! Proverbs 19:17

Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works. James 2:26

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me/us?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, others, and me.*

CLOSING PRAYER

May God so fill us today with the heart of Christ that we may glow with the divine fire of holy desire.

-Amen-

—A.B. Simpson

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.

Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and

Speak and act from a listening heart.

Actively serve in community with others.