



MEDITATIONS FOR LENT by Father Robbie Low

FIRST WEEK OF LENT – MONDAY Matthew 25: 31-46

In ancient times when the Rosarium of Our Lady came into use, when the night air was scented by the prayers of the faithful reciting the mysteries of the life of Christ with the loving heart of Mary, the final glorious mystery was not the Crowning of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven. That was combined with the Assumption as the penultimate mystery. The final mystery was today's Gospel, the stupendous picture that occupies the wall of the Sistine Chapel and has Man, if he is at all aware, shaking in his boots. It is the Last Judgement.

In today's passage, Jesus outlines the criteria of that judgement.

It is the touchstone of mercy.

It is the sheer compassion of the human heart for the distress of his fellow Man.

It is not the 'what I say' but rather 'what I do and who I am' that is revealed before the judgement seat of the only one whose judgement ever matters.

Justice is the recognition of right and the putting right of wrongs. It is final unto salvation and unto damnation and there is no appeal; against the truth of Christ's deliberation and discernment of the state of the soul. So it is, at once, both glorious and terrifying, who we truly are exposed in the light of the absolute majesty of God. Who would not tremble? One of the great weaknesses of popular modern apologetics is to avoid preaching this reality of the Divine Justice. Most people, including many churchgoers have little idea of salvation or salvation from what?

The shattering summary of Christ in Matthew 25 should focus our attention pretty sharpish, make us turn ardently to prayer and to the corporal works of mercy. And remember too that those who have been friends with Christ in this life and have ministered to Him wherever He has been in need in His creatures and children, need not fear the judgement but prepare to welcome the final triumph of the Kingdom.

Spiritual exercise: Pray a decade of the Rosary on the Last Judgement