



**Five Important Spiritual Thoughts from the Liturgy of the Word
...and follow up for the Secular Franciscan
November 17 – November 23**

1 -- "If this day you only knew what makes for peace." (Lk 19:42)**
...Do others consider me a peaceful person?

2 – "He said to me, 'Take and swallow it.'" (Rev 10:9)

Extended meditation:

Why are Jesus's words so important?

Before we even answer that question, we have to clarify "Jesus's words." First of all, we must be certain that they are his words. The Gospels give us the words, and although sometimes there must be scholarly study with regard to the words, most of the time they can easily be understood. Mark Twain famously said, "Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand."

Secondly, Jesus's words come through others. For example, we must listen to the words that come from the Hebrew Scriptures, words often spoken as a foundation for Jesus's words in the Gospel. Also, we must hear the words of preachers of Jesus's words who were speaking of what Jesus said and their application to our lives, namely the words of the New Testament Scriptures.

The General Instruction on the Roman Liturgy says this about the first part of the Mass called the Liturgy of the Word:

The Liturgy of the Word is to be celebrated in such a way as to promote meditation, and so any sort of haste that hinders recollection must clearly be avoided. During the Liturgy of the Word, it is also appropriate to include brief periods of silence, accommodated to the gathered assembly, in which, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the word of God may be grasped by the heart and a response through prayer may be prepared. It may be appropriate to observe such periods of silence, for example, before the Liturgy of the Word itself begins, after the first and second reading, and lastly at the conclusion of the homily.

Periods of silence in which "at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the word of God may be grasped by the heart" is suggested by the document. The

SHAPING THE FRANCISCAN FOOTPRINT
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words of Jesus and about Jesus must be the guide that the Christian accepts in order to live in our world. That is, the beginning of a good life comes from words, words that we think about in "the heart."

Of course, thinking about those words is only the beginning. "The heart" must direct those words to "living," in action. Francis of Assisi famously spoke that fact at one time: "It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching," which has been roughly translated: "Preach the Gospel at all times; and if necessary, use words."

3 – "My house shall be a house of prayer." (Lk 19:46)**

...Can I make my prayer schedule/life a little better than it is?

4 -- "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Lk 23:42)**

...This should be a daily prayer, and a daily challenge to deserve the kingdom.

5 -- "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest. (Lk 21:3)**

...Do we give of ourselves completely to the Lord?