

DAY 02

TUESDAY,
JANUARY 31

*"Have death always before your eyes as
a salutary means of returning to God."
—Bernard of Clairvaux*

"Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!" Lamentations 3:40

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

There is something about distress, disaster, or even facing death that causes us to stop and question life. What am I doing? Where am I going? Does this really matter? I can tell you that in those moments, I find myself just sitting with the Lord in a quiet place to listen what He might say. I want to know if I have missed his voice or is this just a reminder that in this world I will have trouble but to take heart, Jesus has overcome the world. When Jeremiah says to "test" our ways, metaphorically, it is an invitation to probe one's behavior. The act of poking around, as well as "examine", which is to investigate or search the depths. This is a process by which you and I might find something that doesn't look like a life of devotion to the one true God. We may stumble over idols of pride, entitlement, unforgiveness, resentments, prejudices and more. It is Socrates, quoted by Plato in Apology, that said, "The life which is unexamined is not worth living." Test, examine and then return. Returning isn't about a destination, it is about a relationship. Return to the Lord. Returning also requires us to let go of this world to hold onto the only source of life, Jesus.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, let each of us hear the words of Jeremiah and test, examine and return to You every day of our lives. May we let go of this life and live in obedience with hope in what is to come.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord, I pray for all the families on my list that they will be open to your Spirit and the truth of the Gospel. Lord, go before me and give me divine opportunity to serve them and share with them your love.

RETURN



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