

Satisfied in God Alone

A prayer service to be used with Chapter 10: The Journey Continues: To the Time of Jesus and Beyond.

Leader: What gives you a sense of fulfillment? Our Scripture passage for today speaks of the deep satisfaction that Tobiah and Sarah found in God alone. St. Anthony of Padua also understood how our hearts often seek gratification in things outside God, but that God alone satisfies these longings, and rightly orders the other natural desires of the heart.

Reader 1: A Reading from the Book of Tobit (Tb 8:4-8),

When Sarah's parents left the bedroom and closed the door behind them, Tobiah rose from bed and said to his wife, "My sister, come, let us pray and beg our Lord to grant us mercy and protection." She got up, and they started to pray and beg that they might be protected. He began with these words:

"Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors; blessed be your name forever and ever! Let the heavens and all your creation bless you forever.

You made Adam, and you made his wife Eve to be his helper and support; and from these two the human race has come. You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a helper like himself.' Now, not with lust, but with fidelity I take this kinswoman as my wife. Send down your mercy on me and on her, and grant that we may grow old together. Bless us with children." They said together, "Amen, amen!"

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Now we will take time to ponder these words that are attributed to St. Anthony as though God were speaking directly to you.

Reader 2: (Read slowly) Everyone longs to give themselves completely to someone, to have a deep soul relationship with another, to be loved thoroughly and exclusively. But God, to a Christian, says, "No, not until you are satisfied, fulfilled and content with being loved by me alone, with giving yourself totally and unreservedly to me, with having an intensely personal and unique relationship with me alone. Discover that only in me is your satisfaction to be found. I want you to stop planning, stop wishing, and allow me to give you the most thrilling plan existing. One that you cannot imagine. Please allow me to bring it to you. You just keep watching me, expecting the greatest things. Keep experiencing the satisfaction that I Am. Keep listening and learning the things I tell you. Don't be anxious. Don't worry. Don't look at the things you think you want. Or you'll miss what I want to show you. Dear one, I want you to have this most wonderful love. Know that I love utterly. I Am God. Believe and be satisfied.