

# DAY ONE

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## MY DAY BEGINS

There came a moment  
when the Holy Spirit overtook  
the young Francis.

The time had come for him  
to follow the impulses of his soul.  
He would turn to things of the spirit,  
putting aside the worldly concerns  
that had dominated his life.

He sold everything he had,  
even the horse he was riding.

When he was still wondering  
what to do with the money he had received  
from the sales,  
he came upon the old, crumbling church of St. Damian  
and its poor old pastor.

At the old man's knees  
he poured out his newly found spiritual hunger.  
The old man was skeptical of such a sudden  
conversion

in a young man so well known till now  
as the neighborhood's ring leader in riotous living.

He refused the money.

But Francis remained obstinate,  
begging the old man to believe in his sincerity,  
asking the priest over and over again  
that for the sake of the Lord  
he be allowed to stay at the church with him.

Finally the priest gave in.

Francis could stay  
but out of fear of the young man's father,  
the priest would not accept the money.  
Francis then took the money  
for which he no longer had use or desire  
and threw it upon a windowsill to join the dust  
that was gathered there.

For Francis,  
the money was of no more importance than the dust.  
Henceforth he would desire to possess only  
that wisdom that is better than gold,  
and to acquire that prudence  
that is more precious than silver.

(1 Cel IV)

## ALL THROUGH THE DAY

Choose wisdom rather than gold.

(Prov 16:16)

## MY DAY IS ENDING

Our Father who art in heaven,  
all through this day

I have meditated on what it might mean  
to follow my deepest spiritual impulse,  
to set aside worldly values  
and surrender my life to your Holy Spirit.

Engender in me the wisdom  
that is greater than gold,  
the prudence that is more precious than silver.

Take me at my word.

And now as the day ends  
and sleep approaches,

I pray with Francis  
that I will have the strength to choose  
what the world values least.

May the Lord bless and keep all his children.

May he make his face to shine upon us

and be gracious to us.

May the Lord look kindly upon us,  
grant us a quiet night and lasting peace.