

LETTERS

READ: Letters: pages 734-763 from The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross
Rodriguez-Kavanaugh edition

REFLECT: Use the following excerpts for meditation time:

Serve God... following in his footsteps of mortification, in utter patience, in total silence, and with every desire to suffer, becoming executioners of your own satisfactions.... (letter 7)

The soul that is quick to turn to speaking and conversing is slow to turn to God. (letter 8)

....they would be very foolish who think that God is failing them because of their lack of spiritual sweetness and delight, or would rejoice, thinking they possess God because of the presence of this sweetness. (letter 13)

When something distasteful or unpleasant comes your way, remember Christ crucified, and be silent. (letter 20)

Cast your care on God, for he watches over you and will not forget you. Do not think that he leaves you alone. That would be an affront to him. (letter 20)

Have a great love for those who contradict and fail to love you, for in this way love is begotten in a heart that has no love. (letter 33)

REPLY: Think how you would describe St. John of the Cross if you had read nothing more than his letters. Write down at least 3 characteristics you notice in these letters.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

RESPOND: Find a map of Spain and locate Madrid, (the capital) Segovia, Cordoba, Baeza, Malaga, Granada and Sevilla.

Write a letter to someone who needs encouragement.