Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

234 To Make Payment (*Satisfacere*)

To make payment is to “Bring forth fruits worthy of penance,” Luke 3[:8]. To make satisfaction truly for sin requires first abstinence from sin just as physicians if they have hope of convalescence they prohibit some things to the sick man, so Christ, John 8[:11]: “Go and now sin no more.” But when life is despaired of as if all things are conceded to the sick man.

¶ Second restitution of the other thing is required which happens through bloodletting, where the substance of blood is lessened. But fever takes away many things. Thus, in restitution of the other thing money is lessened, but with death many things are taken away. And just as there are some sick persons who cannot be cured without bloodletting, so certain sins to be cured without restitution, therefore Zacheus said, Luke 19[:8]: “If I have wronged any man, I restore him fourfold.”

¶ Third the ashes of humility are required with the water of tears. Wherefore happens the purgative soap, Job 42[:6]: “I do penance in dust and ashes.”

¶ Fourth the hairshirt of mortification is required. Therefore Judith [8:6]: “Wore haircloth upon her loins, and fasted.”

¶ Fifth fasting is required, Joel. 2[:12]: “Be converted to me with all your heart in fasting.”

¶ Sixth giving alms is required because it is like a salary of Christ our physician. However he ought not be remunerated himself because according to Psal. [15:2]: “For he has no need of my goods,” but in his heirs the poor, Matt. 25[:40]: “Because you did it to one of these my least brothers, you did it to me.”

¶ Seventh devout prayer is required just as a mother for her son despaired of lights a candle and makes a vow when nothing else remains of the counsel of the physicians. Thus, we weighed down in spirit through sin ought to light a candle to God of our good works according to that of Luke 12[:35]: “Let there be lamps burning in your hands” and make a vow of prayer because Matt. 17[:20]: “This kind,” of demon, that is, of sin, “is not cast out but by prayer and fasting.”