



Daily Reflections

March 23, 2018

Scripture

Jeremiah 20: 10-13

I hear the whisperings of many:

"Terror on every side!

Denounce! let us denounce him!"

All those who were my friends
are on the watch for any misstep of mine.

"Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail,
and take our vengeance on him."

But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion:
my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph.

In their failure they will be put to utter shame,
to lasting, unforgettable confusion.

O LORD of hosts, you who test the just,
who probe mind and heart,

Let me witness the vengeance you take on them,
for to you I have entrusted my cause.

Sing to the LORD,
praise the LORD,

For he has rescued the life of the poor
from the power of the wicked!

Our Scripture Reflection

Jeremiah's heart is broken and he wants to witness the punishment of those who have harmed him. Sound familiar? Jeremiah will learn in time that delivering vengeance was not his job. His job was to speak God's word of judgment on His unfaithful people. Jeremiah was vindicated in 587 B.C. when a massive Babylonian Army destroyed the Kingdom of Israel. If only they had listened to God's messenger Jeremiah...

Food for your Journey

According to author Barbara Brown Taylor, all sinful acts share the common theme of going against God's will. Sinners are out of sync with God, and with the life God desires for them. God's judgment is not so much some kind of extra punishment as it is God's announcement that they have abandoned the way of life. "Like some divine jiu-jitsu master, God does not set out to hurt them," she says in her book *Speaking of Sin*. "God simply spins their rejection of life around so that they can feel the full force of it for themselves."

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, So many people neither know You nor worship You as their God. It seems that the focus on self has replaced focus on the Creator of all selves. Help me, Lord, through my love for You to witness to You and Your way. In doing so, may I lead them to You. Amen