



Daily Reflections

March 28, 2018

Scripture

Isaiah 50: 4-9

The Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue,
That I might know how to speak to the weary
a word that will rouse them.

Morning after morning
he opens my ear that I may hear;
And I have not rebelled,
have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
My face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

He is near who upholds my right;
if anyone wishes to oppose me,
let us appear together.

Who disputes my right?
Let him confront me.

See, the Lord GOD is my help;
who will prove me wrong?

Our Scripture Reflection

The Prophets all experienced rejection and suffering for speaking the words they were commanded to speak by God. And even though they experienced pain and anger they remained resolute because they knew God would vindicate them in time. They knew the meaning of having faith "over the long haul."

Food for your Journey

A modern-day example of the Suffering Servant's "face like flint" belonged to the late Nelson Mandela, hero of the South African liberation movement. Like Isaiah's Suffering Servant, Mandela was arrested and made to endure harsh punishment. Throughout his 28 long years in prison -- the longest stretch on the remote Robben Island -- the apartheid state sought to break him. It sought to make him admit its superior power. Mandela quietly resisted them at every turn. The Afrikaaner establishment's efforts to shame their most famous prisoner ultimately failed, reflecting shame back upon them.

Of great importance to Mandela was his awareness that, even in the island fastness of his prison cell, he was still part of a larger community. He knew his sufferings were about far more than one man's pain and heartache. He knew he was suffering for a higher purpose.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please give me the Grace I need to be courageous as I witness to You. If I suffer because of my witnessing, I will unite my suffering to that which You endured on Calvary. Keep me faithful to You, Lord. Amen