



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

March 3, 2017

Scripture

Isaiah 58: 1-9

Thus says the Lord GOD:

Cry out full-throated and unsparingly,

lift up your voice like a trumpet blast;

Tell my people their wickedness,
and the house of Jacob their sins.

They seek me day after day,
and desire to know my ways,

Like a nation that has done what is just
and not abandoned the law of their God;

They ask me to declare what is due them,
pleased to gain access to God.

"Why do we fast, and you do not see it?
afflict ourselves, and you take no note of it?"

Lo, on your fast day you carry out your own pursuits,
and drive all your laborers.

Yes, your fast ends in quarreling and fighting,
striking with wicked claw.

Would that today you might fast

so as to make your voice heard on high!
Is this the manner of fasting I wish,
of keeping a day of penance:
That a man bow his head like a reed
and lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Do you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
This, rather, is the fasting that I wish:
releasing those bound unjustly,
untying the thongs of the yoke;
Setting free the oppressed,
breaking every yoke;
Sharing your bread with the hungry,
sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;
Clothing the naked when you see them,
and not turning your back on your own.
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed;
Your vindication shall go before you,
and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer,
you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am!

Our Scripture Reflection

Isaiah reprimands the people for their empty hearted display of fasting and worship. "Why do we fast, and you do not see it?", they question God. God chooses not to listen to empty prayers and to turn His eyes from insincere fasting. What does God desire of His sinful people? To show their sincerity by doing good for others while they are fasting and praying.

Food for your Journey

You cannot repent too soon, because you do not know how soon it may become too late.

—Thomas Fuller.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Make me humble and generous of heart as I carry out my Lenten works of fasting and prayer. Amen.