



# Lenten

# Reflections

The Divine Intervention

**April 1, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Jeremiah 11: 18-20**

I knew their plot because the LORD informed me;  
at that time you, O LORD, showed me their doings.  
Yet I, like a trusting lamb led to slaughter,  
had not realized that they were hatching plots against me:  
"Let us destroy the tree in its vigor;  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will be spoken no more."  
But, you, O LORD of hosts, O just Judge,  
searcher of mind and heart,  
Let me witness the vengeance you take on them,  
for to you I have entrusted my cause!

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## Our Scripture Reflection

Once Jeremiah became God's Prophet, he learned quickly the cost of being true to Him. His calling was to preach judgment upon the corrupt religious leaders, teachers and king. At each turn he encountered hatred in the form of rejection and physical torture. But Jeremiah remained true to his calling. In today's text, we get a glimpse into the heart of Jeremiah, a heart turned

bitter due to his suffering. He prays for vengeance and in time his eyes would witness vengeance as God allowed the Babylonian army to invade Jerusalem and destroy the corrupt leaders. Jeremiah's response was not one of glee at the sight, but rather, regret that no one had listened to his message.

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## **Food for your Journey**

Who among us has not been able to identify with the biblical character Gideon and his cry: "If the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our ancestors recounted to us?"

How did God answer Gideon's cry? Not with an answer but with a challenge: "Go in this might of yours...you mighty man of valor." Of course, Gideon was hardly feeling either mighty or valiant at that point. But God knew that Gideon needed less an answer than a confidence: "The Lord said to him, 'But I will be with you'" (Judges 6:13-14, NRSV).

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Help me to remain faithful to the work You have assigned to me. May I never be deterred by resentment or frustration. Amen.