



# Daily Reflections

**July 30, 2016**

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## Scripture

**Jeremiah 26: 11-16, 24**

The priests and prophets said to the princes and to all the people,  
“This man deserves death;  
he has prophesied against this city,  
as you have heard with your own ears.”

Jeremiah gave this answer to the princes and all the people:

“It was the LORD who sent me to prophesy against this house and city  
all that you have heard.

Now, therefore, reform your ways and your deeds;  
listen to the voice of the LORD your God,  
so that the LORD will repent of the evil with which he threatens you.

As for me, I am in your hands;  
do with me what you think good and right.  
But mark well: if you put me to death,  
it is innocent blood you bring on yourselves,  
on this city and its citizens.

For in truth it was the LORD who sent me to you,  
to speak all these things for you to hear."  
Thereupon the princes and all the people  
said to the priests and the prophets,  
"This man does not deserve death;  
it is in the name of the LORD, our God, that he speaks to us."  
So Ahikam, son of Shaphan, protected Jeremiah,  
so that he was not handed over to the people to be put to death.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

When God initially called him to be a prophet, Jeremiah said NO: "I am too young; I do not know how to speak." God refused to give in to His prophet's objections. From the moment he opened his mouth, Jeremiah's life became a living nightmare. Insult, rejection, loss of friendships, abuse, persecution and death threats became daily occurrences. However, Jeremiah did not back down. He was doing God's work and he trusted God would see him through it all, and He did. Witnessing to the Truth is never easy.

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## **Food for your Journey**

What people don't realize is how much religion costs. They think faith is a big electric blanket when, of course, it is the Cross.

--Flannery O'Connor, as quoted in C. Jeriel Howard, "The Gift of Incarnation in Poetry and Fiction," *Christianity and the Arts 2* (1994), 28.

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You have called me to be Your disciple and witness. In a world filled with lies, keep me strong and faithful. Help me, Lord, to be courageous even if it costs. Amen.