



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

March 9, 2017

Scripture

Esther: 14-16, 23-25

Queen Esther, seized with mortal anguish,
had recourse to the LORD.

She lay prostrate upon the ground, together with her handmaids,
from morning until evening, and said:

"God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob, blessed are you.
Help me, who am alone and have no help but you,
for I am taking my life in my hand.

As a child I used to hear from the books of my forefathers
that you, O LORD, always free those who are pleasing to you.
Now help me, who am alone and have no one but you,
O LORD, my God.

"And now, come to help me, an orphan.

Put in my mouth persuasive words in the presence of the lion
and turn his heart to hatred for our enemy,
so that he and those who are in league with him may perish.

Save us from the hand of our enemies;
turn our mourning into gladness
and our sorrows into wholeness."

Our Scripture Reflection

Queen Esther, an Israelite married to the Babylonian King, is made aware of a deceitful and revengeful plot to wipe out her own Israelite people the night before it is scheduled to happen. Her only recourse is to petition the King for mercy, but to do so would cost her very life. According to Babylonian law, the Queen could not approach the King's court unless she was first summoned, however, her only chance of saving her people is to do so. What is a Queen to do? She begs God for help and her humble prayer is answered. When is the last time you begged God during your time of desperate need?

Food for your Journey

I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what.

--Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (HarperCollins, 2006), 128.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Help me to become humble and trusting as Queen Esther was. May I always pour out my heart to You when I pray. Amen.