



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

March 21, 2017

Scripture

Daniel 3: 25-43

Azariah stood up in the fire and prayed aloud:

"For your name's sake, O Lord, do not deliver us up forever,
or make void your covenant.

Do not take away your mercy from us,
for the sake of Abraham, your beloved,
Isaac your servant, and Israel your holy one,
To whom you promised to multiply their offspring
like the stars of heaven,
or the sand on the shore of the sea.

For we are reduced, O Lord, beyond any other nation,
brought low everywhere in the world this day
because of our sins.

We have in our day no prince, prophet, or leader,
no burnt offering, sacrifice, oblation, or incense,
no place to offer first fruits, to find favor with you.

But with contrite heart and humble spirit
let us be received;

As though it were burnt offerings of rams and bullocks,
or thousands of fat lambs,

So let our sacrifice be in your presence today
as we follow you unreservedly;
for those who trust in you cannot be put to shame.
And now we follow you with our whole heart,
we fear you and we pray to you.
Do not let us be put to shame,
but deal with us in your kindness and great mercy.
Deliver us by your wonders,
and bring glory to your name, O Lord."

Our Scripture Reflection

Because they refused to worship the pagan king, three faith-filled Israelite men are thrown into a fiery furnace. One of them, Azariah, stood up in the midst of the flames and prays that God will be brought glory through their suffering. God hears and answers him. All three men are led away to Heaven. Think about it. We each experience hardship at times in this life. If only we could offer our pains, our struggles, our hardships up to God for His glory rather than to fuss and complain about them. It's called, "Redemptive Suffering."

Food for your Journey

Here are some of the lyrics for Twila Paris' "God is in control":

This is no time for fear/ This is a time for faith and determination/ Don't lose the vision here/ Carried away by emotion.

Hold on to all that you hide in your heart/ There is one thing that has always been true/ It holds the world together.

God is in control/ We believe that his children will not be forsaken/ God is in control.

We will choose to remember and never be shaken/ There is no power above or beside him, we know God is in control.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, May all that I experience in this life, both the joys and sorrows, serve as an offering of praise to You for having loved me unto Your death. Amen.