



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

March 15, 2017

Scripture

Jeremiah 18: 8-20

The people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem said,
"Come, let us contrive a plot against Jeremiah.
It will not mean the loss of instruction from the priests,
nor of counsel from the wise, nor of messages from the prophets.
And so, let us destroy him by his own tongue;
let us carefully note his every word."
Heed me, O LORD,
and listen to what my adversaries say.
Must good be repaid with evil
that they should dig a pit to take my life?
Remember that I stood before you
to speak in their behalf,
to turn away your wrath from them.

Our Scripture Reflection

The Lord knew when He called Jeremiah to be a prophet to His people, he wanted nothing to do with it. He protested, "I'm too young, I don't know how to speak, I don't know what to say." But God would hear none of it and so

He sent Jeremiah to preach to the priests, the false prophets who were on the corrupt King's payroll, and even the King himself. Jeremiah's life, as the result, became a living hell. And though he wanted God to enact revenge on the people who were harming His prophet, Jeremiah would have to wait. His day of vindication did come.

Food for your Journey

Many years ago a priest told me a story that happened while he was leading a tour of the Holy Land.

He and his parishioners were bouncing along a lonely dirt road when their Palestinian driver slowed to a stop. A flock of sheep was blocking the road. Behind the sheep a man stood yelling and beating them with something akin to a leather whip. He was trying to make them move on ahead.

Dismayed, the priest commented to the driver, "This is contrary to everything I have ever read in the Bible about a shepherd. I thought a shepherd was supposed to lead and the sheep would follow."

The Arab driver smiled and said, "He's not a shepherd. He's the butcher!"

And so it is when you feel beaten down and berated, driven by fear or criticism it is not the Good Shepherd, but the devil on your back.

—Kari Myers.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Keep me faithful and true as I witness to You and Your way. If I encounter hardship or ridicule, make me steadfast and humble. Amen.