



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

March 29, 2017

Scripture

Isaiah 49: 8-15

Thus says the LORD:

In a time of favor I answer you,

on the day of salvation I help you;

and I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people,

To restore the land

and allot the desolate heritages,

Saying to the prisoners: Come out!

To those in darkness: Show yourselves!

Along the ways they shall find pasture,

on every bare height shall their pastures be.

They shall not hunger or thirst,

nor shall the scorching wind or the sun strike them;

For he who pities them leads them

and guides them beside springs of water.

I will cut a road through all my mountains,

and make my highways level.

See, some shall come from afar,

others from the north and the west,

and some from the land of Syene.

Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth,
break forth into song, you mountains.
For the LORD comforts his people
and shows mercy to his afflicted.
But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me;
my Lord has forgotten me."
Can a mother forget her infant,
be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
Even should she forget,
I will never forget you.

Our Scripture Reflection

How low could they go??!! After years of forsaking the Lord and rejecting His call to change uttered by Prophet after Prophet they refused to repent. As the last resort, God warned them that they would pay a price for their obstinance. That price included fifty years of exile in Babylon. And what do they do once they get there? They cry like spoiled children: "God does not love me, God has forgotten me." God's response is incredible. He utters some of the most beautiful words to be found in the entire Bible. "Even if a mother should forget the child of her womb, I will never forget you." Tragically, in our own day many mothers forget the child of their womb through abortion. But God has not changed. He never forgets us and stands ready to take us back if only we turn to Him.

Food for your Journey

God wants to stretch your faith. And just like physical stretching, spiritual stretching is not easy. Stretching requires us to push beyond our normal level of comfort.

I've seen some pretty amazing feats when watching MMA fighters on TV. It's stunning to see how a fighter can effortlessly swing his foot over the head of his opponent with no thought at all. But one thing I know about that fighter is that he took many, many years to stretch those muscles so that he could get to that level. And the stretching in his gym was always designed to push him beyond what felt comfortable.

And so it is with our faith. God wants to stretch you beyond your normal comfort zone. And that is where you will begin to see growth and progress like never before.

--Chris Russell, "10 w"

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, Take my hand and help me back to You. Accept my sincere and contrite heart and forgive me of my sins. Amen.