



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

CONSOLING AND STRENGTHENING ADVICE

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Gospel

Jesus said to the crowd: "They will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

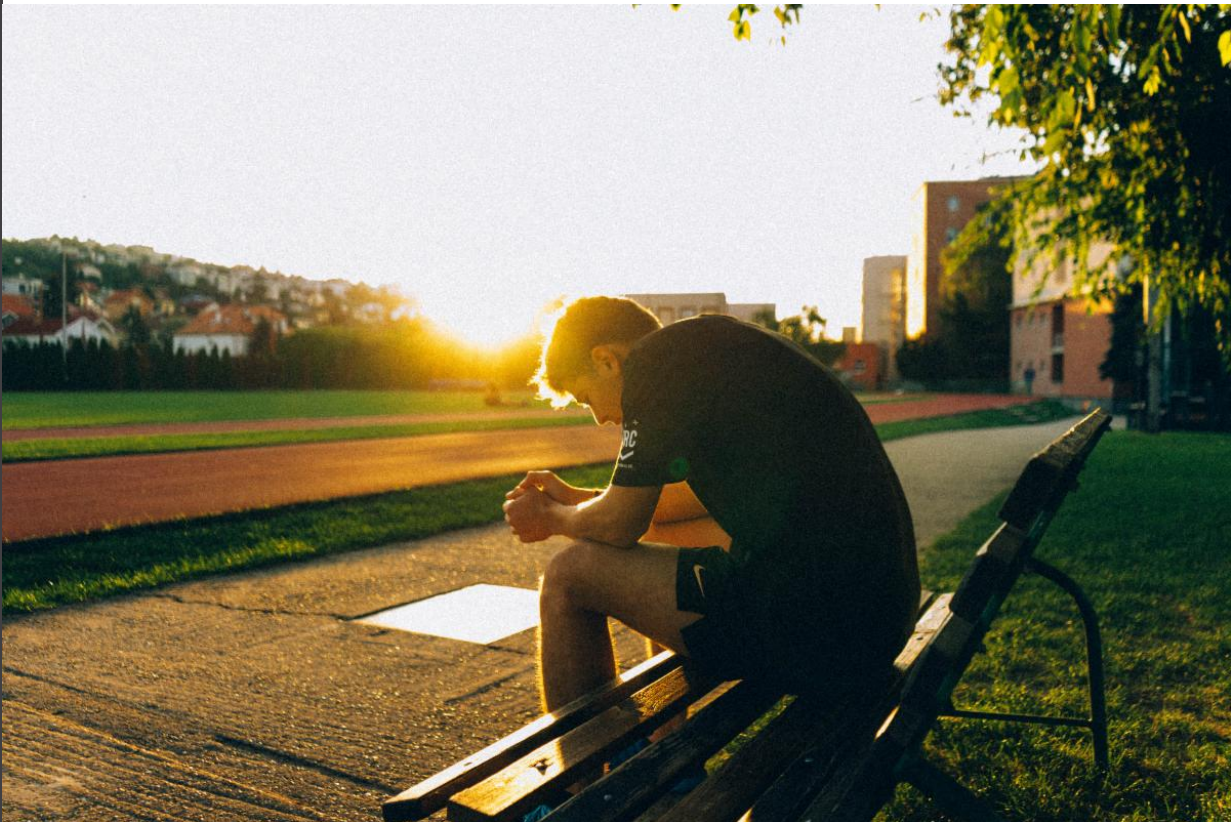
LUKE 21:12-19

Reflection

The early Christians encountered persecution from the home front ("you will

even be handed over by parents, brother, relatives, and friends”), as well as from the leaders of their synagogue and the Roman state. Through these verses Luke offers consolation and strength as believers face their suffering. Hearers of this gospel would be able to identify concrete examples of the persecution Jesus speaks about. During that time, they are not to be anxious. Not an easy task! Ironically, the experience will “lead them to giving testimony” about their faith life. What’s more, they are not to prepare a defense for themselves in advance. (For some of us that would be a huge challenge!) They are told: “I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.” The Christian community is not to depend on themselves for their defense. Imagine being in that position and literally turning *everything* over to God . . . trusting that God will give whatever is needed whenever it is needed.

The promise that “not even one hair on the disciple’s head will be harmed” during persecution may seem strange. Basically it is an image that confirms the ultimate spiritual protection for those Christians facing oppression.



Man sitting on bench near track while sun is setting
Photo by Martin Péchy

For Pondering

- What would you consider the best spiritual advice you've received?

- When have you experienced God giving you just what you needed?
 - How did you recognize it was God's gift?
 - What was your response?
-

For Prayer

*Dear God,
teach me to begin anew—
to renew myself
along with all of Creation,
just as you renew
the entire world
each day.
Show me how I can
break free
of
the constraints of my habits,
the restraints of my insecurities,
the shackles of my unwarranted fears.*

REBBE NACHMAN OF BRESLOV

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

[Support Us Here](#)



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



***Do you know someone who would like to receive
Daily Reflections? Please forward freely!***

Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing
List



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by theccsd@csjorange.org