

TIMELESS STORY

By Julie Mussché

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

"And I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

ISAIAH 49:5-6

Reflection

Bethany, House of Lazarus, Late Afternoon

"So much has happened over the last several days, how will we ever

remember?" Matthew said to himself. "I must take an accounting," he chirped out loud. He efficiently perused the parables he had scribed, the Fig Tree, the Two Sons, the Great Feast, so many it made Matthew's thoughts intersect. Refocusing, he edited as he read, attempting to be as accurate as possible.

When he came to the conversation between Jesus and the Pharisees about the most important commandment in the Law of Moses, Matthew found himself choking with tears. With Jesus, he felt loved and accepted. Before being called by his teacher, he had been loathed and shunned by most everyone. "Come be my disciple," Jesus had invited him. And that night, Jesus and his followers joined him for a meal, not bothered by the legalistic prohibitions, embracing him and his friends with cordiality. How good it felt to be part of a group, to have friendships, to share a purpose, and to be cared for, even by God. "Now what?" he wondered. So much had happened over the last several days. "One can sense the tension walking through the city and Passover is nearing." He fell to silence. "I am a follower of Jesus," he concluded following a long reflection, "what else is there to say?" Matthew left his work to join the others.



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A Prayerful Invitation

On this Tuesday of Holy Week, holding in your heart the rejection and persecution of Jesus and his followers, you are invited to remember those, past and present, who have been marginalized or discriminated against because of difference.

Companioning Psalm Portion from Today's Readings

In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice rescue me, and deliver me; incline your ear to me, and save me.

PSALM 71:1-2

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