

September 3, 2023



THE PROPHET'S LAMENT AND THE REDEEMER'S GIFT

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's First Reading and Gospel

First Reading

You duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped; you were too strong for me, and you triumphed. All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; the word of the LORD has brought me derision and reproach all the day.

I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

JEREMIAH 20:7-9

Gospel

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer

greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you."

He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

MATTHEW 16:21-27

Reflection

In this passage from the prophet Jeremiah, we hear his sixth lament during his 40 years proclaiming the word of the Lord. Because he lived during some of the most critical and terrifying years for the Jewish people, he suffered constant persecutions and suffering. Jeremiah felt like God had tricked him, lured him, into being God's messenger, and yet, when Jeremiah tried not to speak in God's name, God's word became *like a fire burning in his heart*. Even though God's prophetic word caused him pain and humiliation, Jeremiah had an irresistible urge to speak out for God.

Today's Gospel from Matthew describes the moment when Jesus knew he had to begin to tell his disciples that he would have to go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly at the hands of lay leaders, be killed, and be raised to life. This proclamation was terribly shocking to Peter, and he pulled Jesus away from the others: *This must not happen to you!* Oh, Peter! Jesus called you Satan! This purely human way of thinking was a stumbling block for Jesus. Jerusalem is the place where the prophets die. At this crucial moment, Jesus began to tell his disciples what kind of a Messiah he is. Moreover, he was inviting them to walk this path with him. Jesus invites anyone who wants to follow him to take up the cross and go with him on this road. Like the prophets of old, suffering and self-denial are in store for those who follow God's way. There is a cost and a reward in trusting Jesus who goes before us, laying down his life that we may live in him forever. It requires a process of letting go and allowing Jesus to show us the way and to give us the strength we need.



Gray soil pathway in the grass
Photo by Lisa Fotios

For Prayer

*O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.
On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night for you
have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.*

PSALM 63:1-8; GRAIL TRANSLATION FROM THE HEBREW

**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