

You, O Lord, are my help and my deliverer!

Jeremiah 38:4-6

Psalm 40:2-4,18

Hebrews 12:1-4

Luke 12:49-53

In the first reading, enemies of Jeremiah convince the king that the prophet is demoralizing the people and ought to be put to death. They are given permission to exert their power over him and Jeremiah is thrown into a cistern where he sinks into mud. But Ebed-melech speaks to the king and says they were wrong to accuse and harm him and is given permission to rescue Jeremiah.

The Psalmist looks to the Lord God as his helper and deliverer and prays that God will not hold back his help. He has patiently waited for the Lord's help and was drawn from the pit of destruction. Now he has a new song in his mouth and those that look on will recognize this and shall, in turn, trust in the Lord



In the second reading Paul encourages the brothers and sisters in faith to rid themselves of every burden and sin that clings to them. They are to persevere by keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. Jesus endured the cross and now sits at the right hand of the throne of God. On earth he endured much opposition from sinners so that seeing his examples we may not grow weary and lose heart.

In the Gospel Jesus explains to his disciples that he has come to earth to light the fire of faith among the people. This will not always establish peace but rather division even among close members of households.

**The Father hears the cry of the suffering,
And guides us to keep our eyes fixed upon the Son.
The Holy Spirit will make firm our steps!**

Jeremiah's preaching was met by fierce opposition and even the psalmist felt like he was in a pit of destruction before being saved. If we look to Jesus in those difficult situations we shall not grow weary and lose heart. Be firm in your faith because Jesus is telling us that following him may bring down a firestorm of opposition even from those who may be closest to us.

When my faith grows weak, my love grows cold, my hope grows dim,
Burn in me, O Lord

Have mercy on me when
my prayer is smothered by skepticism,
my praise is suppressed by pain,
my thankfulness is muffled by pessimism.
These are the times I need your love most of all.

Your glance, O Lord, is like the evening light at sunset on a cloudless evening
making the water sparkle like diamonds.

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