

Sunday Readings Reflections

8/14/2016

Reading 1 Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

It takes great courage to tell people the truth about themselves when they do not want to hear it. That was what the prophets, like Jeremiah in today's reading, had to do over and over again. Jeremiah tried to get the people of Judah to reform their lives. He warned them that they would be defeated by the Babylonians and that Jerusalem would be destroyed. But many refused to listen to him, and the king of Judah decided to silence God's messenger. Jeremiah's enemies left him in a water storage tank to die. Later a compassionate foreigner convinced the king to let the prophet go.

Reading 2 Hebrews 12:1-4

Why are prophets willing to suffer for proclaiming God's word? The author of the second reading gives us an excellent answer to that question as he explains why Jesus was willing to die for us: "For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross." When we run the race of faith, we do not face the hurdles alone. Jesus is there to cheer us on, along with a great crowd of saints who have already finished the race.

Gospel Luke 12:49-53

Jesus wants his followers to know the truth. Jesus tells us that, if we are truly living as Christians, sometimes we will experience trouble and division. We cannot experience the peace of Christ until we turn away from sin and let God reign in our lives. Sometimes when people chose to do God's will, those they love turn against them. This can happen when people do not fully understand or accept the message of Jesus. This conflict with loved ones is what Jesus speaks of today. Remember that Jesus himself suffered rejection.

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