

Ed Prybylski

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In today's readings we hear the desperate pleas of Jeremiah...He's struggling with the position God has placed him in. All around he hears the rumors, the innuendo, the jokes. God has told him to speak a message of repentance.. a return to that personal relationship God desires of all of us.

Yet the people of Judah don't like somebody getting up in their business ... They're pushing back in a way they know best... using his own words against him... trying to trip him up. Much like the Pharisees try to do later with Jesus... healing on the Sabbath...taxes..

In desperation Jeremiah is.. Lord, you got me into this mess, now get me out!

Finally! Putting his faith in God... trusting God to show him the way he says: "But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior, so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail."

I struggled with this assignment because I've had my own times of desperation... My own turning my back to God to do it my way...

We continue to be that stubborn and rebellious people that Moses led out of Egypt. It's a harder path to follow, alone.

The message from Jeremiah, of his struggle with himself, his ministry, and with those to whom he is sent to minister, is clear... He alone could do little but he, with trust and a faith that God is with him, he could do all!

As we read in Matthew "...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of age"

I know that God is with me.. that the trials.. and joys.. I experience are like the smelter's fire, preparing me.. strengthening me for my reward of an eternity with God.

Vivat Cor Jesu...Live the heart of Jesus!