

WELCOME -

Thought for the day

When we are willing to take up our cross with Jesus we will also know His risen life. But discipleship is not without cost.

Collect

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

**The book of the prophet Jeremiah.
ch 20. 7-13**

Jeremiah was in despair. He had spoken out for God, done all that the Lord had asked of him. Yet here he was publically flogged, placed in the stocks, humiliated and his friends thought him mad. He would walk away but God's word still burned within him

Jeremiah cried out:

O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, 'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: 'Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. 'Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him.' But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

PSALM 69. Vs 8-11, 18-20

David was in difficult straits with numerous enemies. He knows that his only source of assistance is his Creator.

Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face. I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children. Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me. I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach. Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me.

Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress. Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.' In your great mercy, answer me, O God.

The letter of Paul to the Romans. Ch 6.1b-11

In the previous chapter Paul says that God's grace in Jesus Christ is abundantly greater than human sin. Did his audience now think 'If sin is the occasion for grace, perhaps we should just keep on sinning so that God can go on showing us His grace?'. Here is Paul's answer....

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider

yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Ch10.24-39

Jesus warns of the persecution to come. If they hate the teacher they will hate the disciple. Hatred of Jesus led to a cross.

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent them out with the following instruction: 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master;

it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

Prayers *Please add your own prayers*

We pray to our heavenly Father who is familiar with our world and understands our humanity.

Lord of all, wherever Christians are ridiculed or persecuted for their faith, we ask for your courage and inner strength. Wherever love for you has grown cold may the fire of your Spirit rekindle a flame. When we are called to be your witnesses, may we be given the Grace to communicate your love.

Wherever people are oppressed, when our silence allows injustice and corruption to flourish, we ask for your forgiveness Give us the courage to speak up for your ways of justice and peace.

When families are struggling to stay together in the present difficult times. Wherever children are unwanted or unloved, neglected or in danger, let us reach out in whatever way we can to show your love in action.

When bodies, minds or spirits are wracked with pain or are too exhausted or weak to pray, we ask for them the love of your presence and the care of friends.

Lord of all, wherever the dying are anxious and afraid, we ask your peace. We commend to your unchanging and everlasting love the faithful who have passed from this life into eternity.

We thank you Lord our God and Creator, through your Son our Redeemer for the Grace to live this Resurrection life, for the joy of nature's beauty and all the daily miracles around us. Amen

The kind of fulfilling life that we think we are going to gain by accumulating wealth and prestige at other people's expense, over indulging our tastes, and feverishly totting up as many experiences as possible in case we lose out on anything, turns out to be disappointing and never as satisfying as we had hoped ; there is always something else that we really have to try. In comparison , the way of Jesus gives an inner sense of rightness , calm and integrity which is very richly fulfilling and enables others to become their real selves as well. *Susan Sayer*

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