

## **READINGS AND REFLECTION FOR AUGUST 30, 2020**

### **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

***First Reading: Jer 20: 7-9***

***Responsorial Psalm: Ps 63: 2-6, 8-9***

***Second Reading: Rom 12: 1-2***

***Gospel: Mt: 16: 21-27***

#### **REFLECTION:**

In the first reading Jeremiah complains to the Lord that while giving God's prophecy to the people he is ridiculed and scorned. Pashhur, the priest and chief of the temple, had him beaten and placed in chains because of his prophecy. Jeremiah felt deceived and overpowered for following God's will and making these prophecies.

In today's Gospel Jesus was beginning to prepare His disciples to know that He would soon have to suffer and die --- this being God's will for him. Impetuous Peter jumped in to try to change the agenda to fit what he thought should happen. He was rebuked by Jesus for being mindful not of the things of God, but of the things of man.

In the second reading, St. Paul warns us not to conform to the standards of the world. So, how do we discern if we are following God's will or merely following the ways of the world?

"Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him". (Rom 12:1) "Place your cause in God's hands and let the Lord take revenge upon your enemies". (Jer 20:12) "Sing to the Lord. Praise the Lord!" (Jer 20:13) "Give the Lord thanks. Raise your hands in prayer." (Ps 63:4)

"If you do these things, you will let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God --what is good and pleasing to Him and is perfect". (Rom 12:2)

#### **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, give me the maturity to avoid jumping to conclusions and actions by following the ways of the world. Prompt me to put my battles into Your hands. Help me to discern Your will for my life through praise, thanksgiving and prayer. I offer myself as a sacrifice, dedicated to Your service. Transform my mind to seek what is pleasing and perfect in Your eyes. Amen.

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