

For Reflection:

Welcome to day 22 of our Lenten journey—our opportunity to clear away the things that interfere with our remembrance and relationship with our God. How are you doing so far? We are experiencing some unprecedented times, are we not? Are you able to “rest” in these circumstances? This doesn’t mean we don’t care about what is happening around us. It means we can peacefully trust in God’s sovereignty and power to redeem this struggle for good.

In our passage today, Jesus has “been taken” to the next level of his “trial” before the Sanhedrin. They have found him guilty of blasphemy, but the Jewish rulers have no authority to sentence Jesus. They must appeal to the Roman government for that. Blasphemy is not a recognizable offense to a secular regime, so the Sanhedrin shrewdly switched the charges to treason. Things just keep going from bad to worse.

Jesus made tremendous sacrifices so that we could know the lengths God will go to show his love. Have our difficulties even begun to compare? In this time of “trial” let us look to Jesus for hope and courage. Follow Jesus’ example of devotion to his Father, care for those around him, and trust that good can come from suffering.

Today's Scripture:

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate (Mk 15:1, NIV).

Questions to Ponder:

How do you handle adversity? Where are you being called to trust? What does caring for others look like in the next few days and weeks?

Prayer:

Sovereign God, your word says "Everything is possible for one who believes.... I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mk 9:23-24, NIV excerpts)

Practice:

Fixed Hour Praying – to stop work and pray throughout the day.

Set regular and consistent "hours" (appointments) to attend to God through prayer. Set your phone to "call" you to keep company with Jesus. Develop the ability to hear a word from God in the midst of daily activities.

(Adapted from *The Spiritual Discipline Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun/Fixed Hour Prayer)