

For Reflection:

Welcome to day 10 of our Lenten climb to “The Rock” of God. We are one fourth of the way. How is it going? Do you have any new insights? New experiences with God?

In today’s passage Jesus stands center stage between those who are powerful but still striving to hold onto what they perceive is their rightful position. We also have the oppressed outcasts (a.k.a. disciples) who are having an identity crisis and are afraid for their lives.

On which side of the balance are you? Do not be too quick to align with the underdogs. In our affluent culture, there are many ways we could be the aggressors/oppressors. And if we feel we are called to be disciples, that does create significant issues we need to discern about our lifestyle and priorities.

The point of this Lenten focus is for us to take time and effort to look to Jesus--the things he does, like pray; the things he says, like watch. That is what these devotionals are hopefully helping us to do. There are promises, “big rocks,” that we, his children can stand on. If we don’t know the promises, if we are unfamiliar with The Rock, we’re on sinking sand.

Today’s Scripture:

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders (Mark 14:43 NIV). (More Below)

The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations (Psalm 33:10-11 NIV).

Question to Ponder:

What helps you recall that God is in control?

Prayer:

God my Rock, I am grateful that you have set your plan in motion. Please help me understand how I fit in. Amen.

Practice: Fasting

To let go of an appetite in order to seek God on matters of deep concern for others, myself and the world. A fast is the self-denial of normal necessities in order to intentionally attend to God in prayer. Bringing attachments and craving to the surface opens a place for prayer. This physical awareness of emptiness is the reminder to turn to Jesus who alone can satisfy.

Today, try abstaining from food, drink, shopping, desserts, chocolate and so on in order to intentionally be with God. Keep company with Jesus in relinquishment. (adapted from *The Spiritual Discipline Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun/Fasting)