

Lent Saturday Week 4

First Reading: Jer 11: 18-20;

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm Ps 7: 2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12;

Gospel Reading: John 7: 40 -53.

Theme: Facing Irresistible Forces

These texts are very powerful for the season of Lent and the coronavirus crisis. We encounter plots to destroy prophets in their youthfulness. The plans hatched to destroy Jeremiah were similar plans concocted against the Great Prophet of Nazareth.

According to the law of nature, when two irresistible forces meet, everything happens. The readings present the collusion of two sets of irresistible forces: the great Prophet Jeremiah versus King Jehoiakim; allegiance to Yahweh versus allegiance to foreign powers, the Anointed One versus the Jewish authorities, Nicodemus versus his colleagues, and the police versus the experts of the Law. The Sanhedrin was that powerful Jewish religious and legal institution that determined teachings that were true faith or not. Everything happened during the encounters: There was a battle between the forces of good and evil.

The Great Prophet of Nazareth would be subjected to the most disgraceful punishment of torture and crucifixion. However, power destroyed power leading to the triumph of goodness in new life. The Pharisee called Nicodemus stood before a Mighty mystery and with the eyes of a prophet, he could not be silent. Nicodemus could not even understand why he defended Jesus; But he made a powerful defense of the Savior. We encounter several replicas of this battle from within and without. Do we often feel like Nicodemus in defense of our faith, the truth, and right choices? May the Savior save us as we face the battles of life.

--Fr. Sev Kupo