

UNTEACHABLE

God never meant us to experience the retribution, but to win salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that, alive or dead, we should still be united to him. So, give encouragement to each other and strengthening one another, as you do already.

Thessalonians 5:9

The Old Testament readings recently seem to be a mixture of warnings and encouragement. In Deuteronomy, we read about the difficulties Moses had trying to lead the chosen people and keep them faithful but they continued to rebel against him and to turn away from the one true God. They lost faith and trust in God and failed to understand and appreciate what they had and the wonders that God had performed for them. They were dissatisfied and turned to other Gods. Throughout their history they were an unruly people who defied and abused many of the prophets that God sent to guide them. Jesus himself called them a people who were unteachable. They suffered many misfortunes but it was not God's punishment, rather it was that God's power and guidance could not penetrate their lack of faith.

One of the great prophets, Elijah, was escaping from Jezebel who wanted to kill him. He had a long journey to Horeb and before long he was so exhausted, he wanted to lay down and die. He prayed that God would let him die for he could not go on. He fell asleep and was awakened by an angel who gave him food and drink to strengthen him for the journey. Elijah then got up and walked for forty days to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Like the people in the desert, I think our world has lost its way and its faith in God. There is so much evil all around us. I think I must have lived a very sheltered life or perhaps I have been blinkered and failed to see what was happening around me. There are so many bad things happening in the world today which, for most of my life, I could never have imagined; child grooming and abuse; people trafficking and the victims forced into slavery and prostitution; violence and hatred between, not only nations but also religions that worship the same God. There is so much greed and selfishness in the world yet most people at heart are good and generous but because there is something lacking in their lives, they turn to material things. They worship the gods of money, power, wealth and self-satisfaction. They feed the physical but neglect the spirit.

Our world, the planet we live on, is facing disaster. The scientists tell us that the point of no return is fast approaching. Surely it is time for all nations to put aside their differences and work together to save the planet. Surely all religions should do the same and pray together that God will save us. It is not God's fault that the world is facing such disaster. The scientists have proved that what is happening is our fault, it is because of what we have done. Only God can put it right. We must turn to him with sincere and contrite hearts and pray that he will listen.

May God bless us all

Eternal God in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us so that in difficult moments we might not despair, not become despondent, but with greater confidence, submit ourselves to your holy will, which is love and mercy itself. (Chaplet of the Divine Mercy)