

APRIL 2, 2022
Saturday of the 4th Week of Lent
Jeremiah 11: 18-20; John 7: 40-53

“STAND WITH GOD.”

When we are confronted with persecutions, lies, mistreatment, do we stand amidst our enemies and not afraid of the truth? Are we ready to fight and live love and truth? Prophet Jeremiah stood against all his enemies as he knew that truth will always prevail in God. “In 622 BC, King Josiah of Judah undertook a religious reform (described in 2 Kings 22) after the Book of the Law was discovered, having lain hidden for years. It seems that Jeremiah took an active role in the reform. By championing the reform, which included the suppression of local shrines, Jeremiah incurred the hatred of his fellow citizens, the people of Anathoth.” They wanted Jeremiah to be killed like a lamb led to slaughter. They said, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!”¹ He had no children so, for them if they kill him it is the end of him forever. As Jeremiah stood with God, God stood with him.

Jesus in His encounter with the scribes and Pharisees who denied the truth cannot see the truth because their hearts and minds were not open. They cannot see the hands of God working in Jesus because they were blinded by their self-interest, greediness, and self-righteousness. Likewise, it will happen to us unless we open our selves to God, accept Him as our Lord and Messiah, and be open to the truth.

Let us pray therefore, that we may have an open mind and accept Jesus’ messages everyday, which can be surprising to us in many ways. As we prepare for the Holy Week, let us have a total surrender to God’s grace and to have full participation in His passion, death, and resurrection through the sacraments and act of charity and sacrifices. Like Prophet Jeremiah, let us also stand with God amidst lies, rejection, and pain cause by others. As we stand for God, God will stand with us.

¹ Jeremiah 11: 19b Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society