

## **Thursday, February 29, 2024 - Day 14 of Lent**

Open in Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you know that in this world we are under great pressure, so that at times, we fall, we get hurt, we are wounded, we retreat. Remind us that in our weakness, Your strength is enough. You can pick us up and place us on the path You desire for us to walk. You can heal any wound or hurt. And when we retreat, we can retreat to the shadow of the cross, and abide in You. This week, help me find refuge in You, O Lord. Amen.

Read Psalm 72:12-19 (NIV)

**For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight. Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him. May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long. May grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway. May the crops flourish like Lebanon and thrive like the grass of the field. May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. Then all nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed. Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.**

### **Answer the following questions:**

When a new king was inaugurated in Israel, the people would gather and pray a prayer like Psalm 72. It did not just recognize the new King as the leader, but it also put into place a set of expectations which the people had for their leader. For in Israel, the King was the conduit through which the blessings of God came to the people of Israel. The King was expected to uphold the standards of righteousness and justice within the Kingdom.

1. What do you see the people expecting in this Psalm?
2. From your knowledge of the Bible and of history, how many Kings have been able to hold up these divine standards?
3. I know we don't have kings today, but how many of our leaders seem to be able to hold up these divine standards?

4. As followers of Jesus, we know that it is only in Jesus we will receive deliverance. In Christ, we know that we not only have a King who cares about our needs and our sufferings, but He also identifies with them. Do you know that the King truly cares about your needs and loves you deeply? Have you called upon His name for salvation, or to answer prayer?

God is good, and His love endures forever. His mercies are new every morning! Therefore, let us throw off the sin that so easily entangles and run the race marked out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Let us run to the refuge of the King, and allow Him to care for us, equipping us to continue the race.

#### Close in Prayer

Rather than me giving you a prayer to close with this week, take a few moments and write a prayer today which relates to God's refuge. Put it on a post-it note and leave it on your bathroom mirror, that will give you 6 different prayers by the end of the week to pray as you get ready in the morning, or wind down in the evening.