

ST. RITA OF CASCIA HIGH SCHOOL

LENTEN REFLECTIONS



THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

Gospel

Matthew 7: 7-12

Reflection By

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In today's first reading from the Book of Esther, we read about this strong queen turning to God in her greatest time of need. She prays to God saying "As a child I used to hear that you, O Lord, always free those who are pleasing to you. Now help me, I am alone and have no one but you, O God." Even amidst our crowded and busy world today, it is easy for us to feel alone and like no one can understand whatever hurt we may be feeling. It is hard to remember that God is there. The bible is full of people who plead to God to hear them, sometimes reaching out is difficult.

Like Esther, as children we hear about God answering the prayers of others. As we grow and mature it may at first seem that God doesn't answer every prayer in the way that Jesus promises in today's Gospel; "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find." It is that second part, "seek and you will find" that is easy to forget. As humans we are great at asking for things when we need them. We have been taught that from an early age, say please and thank you, tell someone what you need so they can help you. And in prayer we have been taught to ask God for pardon, for help, we ask Mary and the angels and saints to intercede our deepest prayers.

But the answers don't always fall into our laps. Being a person of faith would be made so much easier if God answered our prayers directly. More often than not, realizing that our prayers have been answered requires us to "seek." St. Augustine reminds us in one of his sermons that though we ask God a question, or for something directly in prayer, the answer we have in mind may not be the answer God gives us. God knows what is better for us than we do.

The Psalm today reminds us "Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me." This lent, let us remember that God will always answer us, but that we need to seek more to find the answers.

Lenten Prayer

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy.

Guard me, O Holy Spirit, that I myself may always be holy.

--St. Augustine

ST. RITA LENT 2014 ~ ONE MIND, ONE HEART