

Lent

devotions

READ:

Mark 21-43 ([click to open link](#))

REFLECT:

This being March Madness, I'm remembering my basketball-playing days in high school. I don't recall making the game winning shot because I didn't; I rarely got off the bench. No, I'm remembering all the conditioning we used to do. I'm remembering "guts" and wind sprints and the "Indian run." Most of all I'm remembering being so tired and so out of breath that I was almost literally on my knees. I earnestly desired an end to my suffering.

These days I don't experience that level of "earnestness" often. Unless the network goes down. Then, I'll call, plead with and beseech whomever I can find to just fix it, to make it better. Because I have nowhere else to go. I need someone to save me (and fast).

Now, this isn't some athletic walk down memory lane or a dissertation on the dependence to IT. Certainly our Father who comes to us (not the other way around) and is present with us as Jesus was to Jarius doesn't intend us to worship at the feet of a coach or someone with an advanced degree. He desires a connection to us, a relationship with us through his Son. When we ask earnestly. He goes with us.

Even though others tell us, "Why bother?" because they see our situation as hopeless Jesus tells us, "Don't be afraid, just believe". Through him and with him we are healed, we are redeemed. We once again, live.

RESPOND:

We've all been down and out. We've all been at the end of our rope, with nowhere to turn perhaps even believing God has abandoned us. But one of the messages of Lent is that in our toughest times, in our deepest sorrow, God is with us. How will you come to God with your burden and lay it at his feet? How will you draw courage from Christ whose advice is "Don't be afraid, just believe" and live.