



Day 3, Tuesday

God present in my distress

Proposal for today

Today, we will remain at the source of our desolation and we take the time to put that desolation into words. At the same time, we are invited to become aware of the presence of God beside us, inviting us to stand firm.

Job, 1, 13 - 22

One day, while his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were ploughing and the donkeys grazing beside them, and the Sabeans carried them off in a raid. They put the servants to the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

He was still speaking when another came and said, "God's fire has fallen from heaven and struck the sheep and the servants and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you."

He was still speaking when another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three columns, seized the camels, carried them off, and put the servants to the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you."

He was still speaking when another came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother, and suddenly a great wind came from across the desert and smashed the four corners of the house. It fell upon the young people and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you."

Then Job arose and tore his cloak and cut off his hair. He fell to the ground and worshiped.

He said, "Naked I came forth from my mother's womb, and naked shall I go back there.

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!"

In all this Job did not sin, nor did he charge God with wrong.



Asking for the grace:

I ask for the grace to feel Your presence in me and around me during all the events and situations, in my life and in my country which are the source of desolation for me.

Suggestions for prayer:

I remember that my life is a spiritual journey, a journey with moments of joy and lightness, and moments that weigh heavily on my spirit. I take the time to look at my history, the family in which I was born, my life situation, my choices, my country,.....

I look at what has been difficult in my life history and what may still be difficult. I name these difficulties. I especially name the difficulties from which I have suffered and for which I wasn't responsible. At the same time I become aware that God was at my side during all these moments and I trust that He will never leave me, regardless of the events, the expressed despair and exhaustion around me or in myself. I look back on my life and remember all the moments for which I can say, 'He was by my side and did not leave me'. I listen to his voice in the depths of my heart.

Can I, like Job, accept what happens to me and not blame God for it?

Conversation with the Lord:

I try to gather the memories and reflections that came up during prayer time and share them with Jesus as if I were addressing a friend. I sincerely entrust to him my doubts, my desolation and my need to experience the presence of his Father, our Father.

To conclude :

I note down what I have remembered from the prayer and what I want to take with me from today.