

Tuesday, April 7

*Scripture readings: Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
John 12:20-36*

Before I read these scriptures I prayed. I prayed for peace of mind, understanding, and the ability to express my feelings. After I was finished reading these scriptures I thought maybe I hadn't prayed long enough!

When I finished reading Isaiah (and the footnotes), I realized that this scripture was talking about God sending the Messiah to us so that we could spread His word to others. I know this is what I am supposed to do as a Christian, but this always makes me feel uncomfortable. I would much rather pray, read the Bible, and try to be a nice person. Surely, this is enough? I know that it is *not* enough and that is why I continued to read the rest of the scriptures.

Psalm 71:1-14 was more comforting to me. I do feel that God is my rock and my fortress. I get this, I know this, and I feel this! Throughout all the highs and lows in my life I have felt God with me, helping me through everything. After I had this thought, I paused.... because if I get this, know this, and feel this, why do I get butterflies when someone talks about the Great Commission, spreading the news, being an evangelist? God will help me get through this fear just as he has with so many other fears and He told me how to do this in John 12:20-36. I first must turn my life over to Him; I must be the kernel of wheat that falls to the ground and dies. I need to give my fears up to Him and follow His words, and then I will be able to go out and spread the Good News to everyone.

*Prayer: Holy Jesus every day,
Keep us in the narrow way.
And when earthly things are past
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
Amen*

Written by Beth Nike