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28 Wednesday

WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year

Jeremiah 15: 10, 16-21  
Ps 58: 2-5, 10-11, 17-18  
Matt 13: 44-46

The scripture readings at Mass today are like a study in opposites. For Jeremiah, his mission was always a burden and danger: everyone seemed to be against him, although the Lord comforted him and repeatedly told him not to be afraid. Jeremiah even tried running away, but despite himself he felt he had to speak out God's word, and remained a faithful prophet. On the other hand, Jesus portrays the Kingdom of heaven as a treasure, a joy, something that's worth giving all of life for.

We all have our ups and downs from time to time, feelings of being alone, left out, ignored, depressed, when things don't seem to be going right for us. Even holy people like the late Mother Teresa have experiences of an 'absence' of God, an emptiness. Yet we also have felt times of great joy, peace and energy when the wonder of God's world and the goodness of people have lifted our spirits, our hopes and our delight in God's kingdom.

Spiritual guides refer to movements of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives, and to feelings of what they call consolation or desolation. Whatever our ups and downs, we should learn to keep them in balance, always trusting in God's love and care more than in anything we can achieve by ourselves.

Let's pray today to be attentive to the ways in which God's spirit moves us, rather than merely to our own moods and longings. Appreciating that we have a treasure in our hands that's worth more than anything else surely should radiate a joyfulness all around us, and bring a smile to people's faces.