

## **Lent Day 12**

Tuesday March 14, 2017

### **Reading:** Romans 5:1-11

*6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

### **Reflection**

Powerless. Have you ever experienced a sense of powerlessness? Many people do. There are people who wrestle with addiction, often find themselves without the necessary power to free themselves. To the person who doesn't struggle with addiction it's seems to be the easiest thing in the world, just don't 'enter addiction here.' But for the addict and those around them it is clear very quickly that they do not have the necessary power.

Through these lenten reflections I have been talking about the human race being under the power of sin and I often write it the Power of Sin. That's the way Paul has been speaking. Sin is not just something we do, but a personified force lined up against God and has taken humanity captive. We are under the Power of Sin which is why we're helpless. The classic passage for this state is Romans 7 — who will rescue me from this body of death. It is because we are under the power of sin that we are powerless.

Just like the addict, our first step to health is to admit we have a problem. This is a challenge because our society has determined to be a sinless one. We don't talk about sin, we talk about psychology. Scripture tells us that we have a condition or, better, we are in a situation — we are in captivity. The difference between us and the addict is that we cannot take steps to make ourselves better — we cannot free ourselves from this power. Again, we are powerless; we need someone to set us free.

The good news of the gospel is that God, through the actions of Jesus Christ, has set us free and he did it while we were still powerless; that is, trapped in sin. Which means that we were still sinners when God did this. That is important because too often we think we need to get clean before God will accept us. Nope, while we were still powerless and still sinners. So, this lent while you are engaged in examination, don't get discouraged and worried that God might not like what he sees, he has seen it all and has dealt with it all in Christ. In this way God has shown his love for us.

### **Prayer**

Holy God, thank you for using your power to set us free and to get us clean. Please continue to renew us over this season of preparation. Amen.