

Second Wednesday of Lent ~ 3/7

"Jeremiah prayed to the Lord in these words: 'Give heed to me, O Lord, and listen to what my adversaries say! Is evil a recompense for good? Yet they have dug a pit for my life. Remember how I stood before you to speak good for them, to turn away your wrath from them.'" (Jeremiah 18:19-20)

Recently a group of women spent the weekend at our retreat center. That is nothing unusual because we have many groups of women come here. What was different is that this was the first group to come and spend the whole time scrapbooking. Scrapbooking is the art of writing the story of your life or your family's life with pictures, words and symbols. Unlike those of us who simply take pictures and slap them under the plastic sheets, these women were engaged in a process that was not only creative but also spiritual. They took time to recall and reverence significant experiences of their past. For some it was a healing time as they filled their book with pictures and words that brought a lost loved one close. For some it was a wonderful way to pass on to the next generation the memories of special times together. It was a holy experience of "remembering when."

Jeremiah does a little scrapbooking of his own. He asks God to remember when He stood up for these people that now wish evil to befall him. He petitions God to look back on the days when he brought the pleas of these same people before Him. He wants God to recall and reverence his work in the present moment because things don't look too good for a future.

A life well spent is a life well worth remembering. Even if remembering brings us sadness at times, there is so much richness in reliving treasured people, places and experiences. Relationships built on memories, on the moments that we can recall that make it less difficult for us to continue on. Sitting around the table and sharing memories with family and friends is a good time.

How often do we remind God of our relationship? How often do we get out the scrapbook of our spiritual lives and retrace the moments when God was for us or when we were for God. Obviously God does not need to be reminded of what He has done for us or what we have done but there is something very real and relational about having this kind of conversation with God. In the very reminding we are making a statement about our trust and about our comfort level with the Lord.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. What moments in my life would I like to recall to God's attention this Lent?*
- 2. What motivates me to remind God that I have been a good disciple? Am I uncomfortable doing this?*