

MONDAY

13 JULY

Isaiah 1:11-17

Psalm 50:7-15

Matthew 10:34

– 11:1

TUESDAY

14 JULY

Isaiah 7:1-9

Psalm 48:1-7

Matthew 11:20-24

WEDNESDAY

15 JULY

Isaiah 10:5-7.

13-16

Psalm 94:5-11

Matthew 11:25-27

THURSDAY

16 JULY

Isaiah 26:7-9.

16-19

Psalm 102:14-21

Matthew 11:28-

end

FRIDAY

17 JULY

Isaiah 38:1-6. 21-

22. 7-8 [sic]

Canticle: Isaiah

38:10-16

or Psalm 32:1-8

Matthew 12:1-8

SATURDAY

18 JULY

Micah 2:1-5

Psalm 10:1-5a. 12

Matthew 12:14-21

REFLECTION

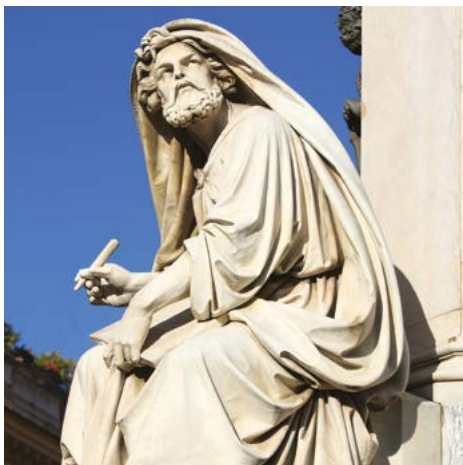
Isaiah is the story of God's messages through the prophet as they endured being assailed by the surrounding empires. People were at a loss to understand how God could let it happen. After all, God had given them the land when they escaped from Egypt.

Isaiah and the other prophets explained that the behaviour of their leaders, the kings, was a major reason. Our first reading from Isaiah this week also explains that God is tired of their sacrifices – the people were going through the motions, but their actions did not match up to them.

For most of us, the idea that God inflicts punishment in the form of invasion by hostile countries is not something we would feel comfortable with. But it is certainly true that the behaviour of our leaders affects all of us for good or bad, and that our own behaviour affects our relationship with God. When it comes to choosing a leader, integrity is surely a vital consideration. And when we consider our own behaviour, we should ask ourselves whether we are really doing what is right, or just appearing to do so.

PRAYER

Gracious God,
help us to strive for what is right in ourselves
and in our leaders.
Give us the wisdom to recognise integrity in our leaders,
and the self-awareness to be right judges of ourselves.



Statue of the prophet Isaiah in Rome

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INNER JOURNEY, OUTER JOURNEY

PART II –
THE RETURN JOURNEY

We continue our series of extracts from James Roose-Evans' classic book.

In 1980 I was given a slim volume of letters, entitled *84 Charing Cross Road*, by Helene Hanff. I acquired the stage rights, adapted it, and in 1981 directed it at the Salisbury Playhouse. It was so successful that it transferred to the West End, starring Rosemary Leach and David Swift. I went to New York to direct it on Broadway where, with Ellen Burstyn and Joseph Maher in the leading roles, it ran for three months. It won various awards: Best Actress, Best Actor, Best Play and Best Director. In 1986 it was made into a film starring Anne Bancroft and Anthony Hopkins.

While this outward journey was unfolding, another inner journey was nearing its completion, resulting in my being ordained deacon on St David's Day at Glasshampton Monastery, surrounded only by the brethren. Then, four months later, I was ordained priest in Hereford Cathedral.

I had had a dream which clearly signalled upheaval and change. Such dreams are not like puzzles, capable of a quick solution and then, once solved, of no further use; they have, rather, an enigmatic quality, capable of many levels of interpretation, and of lasting a lifetime. In the dream I was giving a lecture and explaining how, out of nothing, be it a blank sheet of paper for the writer, a blank canvas for the artist, or a block of stone for the sculptor, something is created. As I spoke I was projecting images from a slide projector. The screen dissolved into a glass window. From far away, out of space, travelling towards me, I could see a shape I recognised, even within the dream, as a deeper aspect of myself. The question was: Do I go through the glass to meet it, or do I wait for it to draw nearer? Franz Elisch urged me to wait, saying that to try and anticipate what was already in motion would be the act of my ego and would result in harm. My task was to wait for this aspect of the Self to reveal its purpose.

James' blog can be found at: www.jamesrooseevans.co.uk. Inner Journey, Outer Journey is available from Redemptorist Publications: 01420 592974. Product code: 1852. ISBN: 9780852315569. Price: £9.95

LIVE
the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith



Fifth week after Trinity

Monday 13 July to
Saturday 18 July
2020

WEEK