

## Wednesday Meditation Holy Week

by Reverend Victoria Ney

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Like most of you, I've been cooking at home a lot lately. That's really not a good thing for a non-cook like me - but definitely driven by necessity!

Anyway, I made a meatloaf the other night. When I was finished mixing it, there was more than could fit in the meatloaf pan. So I decided to keep some aside to make a small one to use for lunch the next day. As Richard and I ate dinner and watched TV, the little meatloaf cooked in the oven.

About 2 hours later, I said, "Something is burning! What's that smell?"

Let's just say the meatloaf was well done!

That whole episode made me think - I'm glad that when we go through fiery trials as believers, God doesn't get distracted, doesn't forget about us, or just leave us there!

In Isaiah 43 God promises, "When you pass through the waters you will not be overwhelmed; when you pass through the fire, the flame will not come near you." (verse 3).

And if you remember, David wrote in Psalm 23, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me." (verse 4).

We need to remember these promises and cast our problems on the Lord, turning them over to God in times of need. Scripture specifically tells us, "Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

The Bible has plenty of stories of people in trouble - people who took their problems to the Lord. For instance, when the people were griping and complaining about Moses, the Bible tells us that Moses cried out to the Lord. When Hezekiah received an intimidating letter from a king who was threatening to destroy him, he spread the letter out before the Lord. When Mary and Martha saw that their beloved brother Lazarus was sick, they sent word to Jesus.

Friends, we know we are in the middle of an unprecedented time of trouble. Fear is all around us. The news every day seems to get worse and is downright frightening. But we also need to remember that we can turn this - and all trouble - over to God. Cast it on Him. Spread it out before Him. Call on Him. Pray. God is listening.

In Psalm 91:15 God tells us, "When they call on me, I will answer. When they are in trouble, I will be with them. I will rescue them."

Let us not despair. Let us not give up. Good Friday is coming - but Good Friday is never the end of the story. Praise God, Easter is coming, too! Let us claim the promise of the resurrection and our power as Easter people.

Will you pray with me?

Merciful God, when the storm of this disease rages and we feel threaten by it, awaken our faith to know the power of your peace.

Deliver us from our fear and ease our anxiety. Help us to endure the time of uncertainty, and give us strength to face the challenges ahead.

We are Easter people who trust in our power and saving grace.

As your disciple said long ago, "To whom can we turn, Lord Jesus? You have the words of eternal life."

Give us the assurance of your presence even in this troubled time, so that we can cling to your promise of hope and life shown to us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.