

CHOSEN BY GOD

Reader #1

Lord, I feel so tired...so alone...

I am trying to do my best, I am trying to share your Good News with the youth from my parish...
It is so hard Lord, there are many distractions. I cannot compete with the ways that they are used
to being entertained...

The parish supports me yet I still end up doing the work alone...

I am so tired and empty Lord!

Reader #2

"I am Jeremiah. Let me pray with you awhile.

When I was young, I knew that God's hand was upon me,
that I was destined to be God's son and servant all the days of my life.
That was many years ago.

I am much older now, and at times, not so certain that I was chosen even from birth to be a servant
of God—and not nearly as enthusiastic about serving Him among my peers.

It may be because my failures far outnumber any successes I may claim in my time of service—
people around me are still flitting like butterflies from flower to flower, savoring the delights of
this existence with scarcely a thought about God and God's will for their lives or about eternity and
its ultimate demands upon God's creatures.

I feel at times that God has given up on me,
that while I am a child of God's grace I have failed to meet God's demands for servanthood, to
effectively carry out God's purposes in stemming the tide of wickedness overwhelming our world,
to proclaim and to demonstrate God's redeeming love to people around me.

Yet I know, deep within me, that God's love for me never ceases, that when my faith falters, God is
ever faithful.

We must remember daily that God cares for us, that God is with us, that God will never let us go.

The world is in God's hands, and despite the persistent rebelliousness of its creatures, God will
accomplish His purposes within it.

It is not important that we see the results of our servanthood; it is important that we trust in God
and God's spirit within us—and that we wait quietly and patiently for the revealing of God's
kingdom.

So, let come what may—adversity or affliction, enmity or opposition, feelings of defeat or even the ridicule of our peers—we are the redeemed children and chosen servants of our God; and we belong to God forever.”

Reader #3

When Jeremiah was called by God he felt unsure, claiming that he was but a child. But God assured Jeremiah of guidance and help, giving the prophet the words he needed. Jeremiah confidently placed his trust in God.

Making an offering of ourselves to God, let us pray for the gifts and graces we and the world need to proclaim the Good News to the world...

Reader #4

I know the plans I have in mind for you...plans for peace...reserving a future full of hope. When you call to me, I will listen to you. When you seek me you shall find me, when you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me; it is Yahweh who speaks.
(Jeremiah 29:11-14).

All:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console,

to be understood, as to understand,

to be loved, as to love

For it is in giving that we receive;

in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen