

AUGUST 14, 2016

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



JEREMIAH 38:4-6, 8-10

PSALM 40:2, 3, 4, 18

HEBREWS 12:1-4

LUKE 12:49-53

REFLECTION

Do you ever wonder if Jesus got frustrated with what he came here to do? Do you think he got frustrated with his closest friends when they didn't understand his mission? Think of something that you really want to happen. How hard are you willing to work for it to come true? These are questions that come to mind in reading the first line of the Gospel. Jesus tells his friends, "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" He has passion, vision, desire, and the skill to make it happen. But, he waited for others to come to their own understanding of his identity. Can you be as patient as Jesus, knowing that within you is the ability to make someone understand but you let them use their own free will? Today's Gospel isn't a message of peace and good will. It is a call to action, telling us it is time to follow Jesus and understand that we are to *do* something if we want to be disciples of Christ.



MATTHEW WEST

**THE STORY:
DO SOMETHING**

<http://www.matthewwest.com/the-stories/the-story-do-something>

ACTION

Develop a practice this week that helps build endurance in your prayer life. Make a plan and stick to it. Maybe invite your friends to be a part of it. I just saw a friend write a post saying she was challenged to post her favorite Scripture verse on Facebook. Then, she tagged friends and asked them to post their favorite. Stand up for God this week. Strengthen those muscles of faith so that you are not just a spark, but a flame burning bright.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What are you most passionate about? What are you most willing to fight for with all your heart/energy? Why?
- Do you have the same amount of passion for your faith in God? If not, what are some ways you can work to ignite the fire for God in your heart?
- What are the oppositions in your way of having a strong relationship with Jesus?