

The Smoldering Wick

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9

Date: March 29, 2021

Message:

*A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice.*

Isaiah 42:3

When we read Isaiah 42:3, we could understand that not breaking a “bruised reed” means that, unlike earthly rulers, our Chosen One would do no harm to people already broken or crushed. Instead, God would lift and support them. This part of the verse seems easily understood.

What about the smoking flax, or smoldering wick (depending on which translation a person reads) – what is that part about? The wick is about to lose its light in the lamp from being at its end; or “at the end of the rope.”

Like the wick, ones who previously shined so brightly, full of Spirit can “burn out” for some reason: Family circumstances, work woes, unemployment, illness – or let’s face it: “Terrible, horrible, no good, very bad,” ** and getting worse. Jesus does not “snuff us out” when we are ready to “burn out.” Jesus supports us, like those who are “bruised.” Romans 8:26-27 assures us that even when we are too weak and do not know how to pray for ourselves, the Holy Spirit will pray for us. That is powerful support!

As I write this, the second vaccine for the corona virus has been released, and the world watches with hope for a crippling pandemic to settle down. For almost a year, health workers, news providers, volunteers, and spiritual leaders have been “smoking flax” at one time or another. Loved ones in isolation smolder alone without light.

Although the Holy Spirit is there to pray for them, let’s be sure to lend our prayers as well. Like Jesus, let us support our brothers and sisters who are at the ends of their ropes, and help them shine a little longer when times are dark.

**Viorst, Judith. (1972.) *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Athenum.

Prayer: *Our dear Lord, thank you for supporting us when we are bruised or burning out. Show us how to support one another in kindness and love. We pray in the name of the Chosen One. Amen.*

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