

Daily Homily
Week Twelve in Ordinary Time, Tuesday
23 June 2020
[USCCB Daily Reading](#)

Sennacherib (What a name!), the King of Assyria, sends a letter ahead of his journey as he is charging toward Jerusalem. The letter is a word bomb of hurled threats and boasting of his terrific power over other kingdoms that were much mightier than Jerusalem.

Jerusalem cannot compete. They cannot equal up to the armies of Assyria. It would seem all is lost.

Hezekiah, Jerusalem's king, takes the letter and, in prayer and on the top of the temple, he shows it to God. It is an act of trust and confidence. The prayer he offers is a model prayer for anyone who seeks a course of action from God to make right a situation of defeat.

Isaiah, affirms that God has heard the prayer. God will act. This time for Jerusalem God will act in their favor to release them from the bonds of their assailants. They will learn about gratitude that the powerful enemy bringing inevitable death and destruction has been put off and has turned around. They will breathe a sigh of relief.

Fast forward one hundred years or so, Jerusalem will be in the same state – warring enemies wanting to take them over. This time Jeremiah is the prophet, the go between from God and king. The message this time is, “give up.” The answer to their prayer of asking for help and relief, is a very different message, “surrender.” Jerusalem will have to learn from defeat. They will learn humility and to appreciate more what had been lost. They will eventually rebuild so that on every level they will be built up better than before.

God speaks and sends Fatherly care in both situations.

In your victories and successes what has God taught you?
In your defeats and failures what has God taught you?