

Prophetic Proclamation for Processing Times of Crisis

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A crisis is a turning point and a decisive moment that disrupts a known reality, thus challenging one's identity. Most people experience many crises in their lives. This session considers two key moments of crisis in Scripture that teach about proclamation of the Good News in such circumstances. The lessons that emerge reveal that proclamation is prophetic at its core. These narratives offer the essential elements for prophetic proclamation across a time continuum of God's abiding presence in the present, the past, and the future. Looking at the present, we are called to recognize the current crisis and to grieve that which is lost; looking back, we are urged to remember God's past salvific works; and looking forward, we are invited to journey toward the future with a firm hope in the new reality that God is creating.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Reflect on a time of crisis in your own life. How would you describe your perception of God's presence during that time?
2. What aspects of a crisis are most challenging to you? What aspects do you think are most challenging to your parishioners? Why?
3. Reflect on biblical narratives of chaos, disappointment, or loss. What from these narratives strikes you?
4. What challenged you from the presentation? What resonated well with you?



SPIRITUAL CONTEMPLATION

Hosea 6:6

“For it is loyalty that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”

Isaiah 43:14-21

“Thus says the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I send to Babylon; I will bring down all her defenses, and the Chaldeans shall cry out in lamentation. I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the LORD, who opens a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who leads out chariots and horsemen, a powerful army, till they lie prostrate together, never to rise, snuffed out, quenched like a wick. Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the wilderness I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers. Wild beasts honor me, jackals and ostriches, for I put water in the wilderness and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, the people whom I formed for myself, that they might recount my praise.”

Jeremiah 29:10-14

“For thus says the LORD: Only after seventy years have elapsed for Babylon will I deal with you and fulfill for you my promise to bring you back to this place. For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—oracle of the LORD—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me—oracle of the LORD—and I will change your lot; I will gather you together from all the nations and all the places to which I have banished you—oracle of the LORD—and bring you back to the place from which I have exiled you.”

Ezekiel 36:24-28

“I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you back to your own soil. I will sprinkle clean water over you to make you clean; from all your impurities and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you so that you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep them. You will live in the land I gave to your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”

John 17

“When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them,

so that they also may be consecrated in truth. I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”



RESOURCES

- [ARTICLE] [The Sociology of a Superb Sermon](#) by Christian Smith, Ph.D.
 - [ARTICLE] [The Saint for a Troubled Church](#) by Colin May, CFE, 3CE
 - [COURSE] [Breaking Open the Word: A Model for Catechesis and Homily Preparation](#) taught by Rev. John A. Melloh, S.M., Ph.D.
 - [COURSE] [Liturgical Theology](#) taught by David W. Fagerberg, Ph.D.
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Dr. Ximena DeBroeck is the Director of Catechetical and Pastoral Formation in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Additionally, she is Adjunct Professor of Sacred Scripture at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland, and Senior Fellow at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. Her publications include online pastoral courses for the University of Notre Dame and the University of Dayton, the Study Guide for Sherry Weddell's book Forming Intentional Disciples, as well as articles on Scripture interpretation and sacramental formation. She is a national and international speaker. Dr. DeBroeck earned her M.A. in Theology with a concentration in Scripture from Saint Vincent Seminary, her Licentiate in Sacred Theology from St. Mary's Seminary, and her doctorate in Systematic Theology from Duquesne University. She is passionate about evangelization but is mindful that prior to being faithful ministers of the Gospel, first we must become faithful disciples.