

## Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 (NRSV)

<sup>18</sup> My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick.

<sup>19</sup> Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land:

"Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,  
with their foreign idols?")

<sup>20</sup> "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

<sup>21</sup> For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken  
hold of me.

<sup>22</sup> Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

9 O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

## 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (NRSV)

**2** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus,  
himself human,

<sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**16** Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup>He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'<sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'<sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

<sup>14</sup>The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they ridiculed him. <sup>15</sup>So he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of others; but God knows your hearts; for what is prized by human beings is an abomination in the sight of God.