Lord Jesus Christ, as you struggled along the path to Calvary you encountered a group of women along the road. Although there were numerous spectators there that day, these women caught your attention and you paused for just a brief moment and spoke to them.

They were weeping. Your pain and suffering touched them deeply. Perhaps they too were mothers? Maybe they had sons? These women stepped forth from the crowd. They were not intimidated by the soldiers, by the screams of an angry mob or by the consequences they could suffer. They were determined and resolute to offer a compassionate glance, perhaps a few supportive words.

Who in my life at this moment may need me to step forward in loving concern? Lord grant me the grace to respond in love and understanding. Help me Lord to reach out to those who may be suffering intense pain and heartache due to family situations, addictions, sickness, and violence. Let me be willing to step forward with the courage of the women of Jerusalem – keeping my eyes on the one who is suffering and remain free of any judgment in their regard. Let love flow forth from me in my actions. Give me the courage to love as you loved. Amen

Prayer written by Sister Bernadette McCauley

"The hour is coming."

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**Third Week of Lent**

**Saturday, March 11**
Pray the reflection above about the women of Jerusalem.

**Sunday, March 12**
At Mass today, ask God to bless someone that you may have overlooked or neglected in your life.

**Monday, March 13**
"Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back." (LK 10:35) Go out of your way to offer care to someone today.

**Tuesday, March 14**
Pray for someone today that you need to forgive for a past hurt. Make an offering of the challenges of the day for healing.

**Wednesday, March 15**
Reflect on the Ten Commandments today. Are you living according to God's law?

**Thursday, March 16**
Listen today for God's voice. What is he prompting you to do this Lent?

**Friday, March 17**
Reflect on the Scripture Hebrews 12:14-15. Do you have “bitter roots” that are keeping you from a closer relationship with God?