

**Without Complaint:  
Getting Forward Beneath a Heavy Cross**  
Jeremiah 12:1-2, 5; 20:7-9, 14, 18

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." (Luke 9:23)

Discouragement  
Men of Anathoth (11:21)

A QUESTION (12:1-2)

A COMPLAINT (20:7-18)

A CHALLENGE (12:5)

Our sufferings are small...

Compared to those still ahead

Compared to those carried by others

Compared to those carried by Christ

Hebrews 12:3 "For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Compared to the glory that will come

Romans 8:18 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

2 Corinthians 4:17 "For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison."

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"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" – Elizabeth Clephane

## Jeremiah 12:1-2, 5; 20:7-9, 14, 18

<sup>12:1</sup> Righteous are You, O Lord, that I would plead my case with You;  
Indeed I would discuss matters of justice with You:  
Why has the way of the wicked prospered?  
Why are all those who deal in treachery at ease?  
<sup>2</sup> You have planted them, they have also taken root;  
They grow, they have even produced fruit.  
You are near to their lips  
But far from their mind.

<sup>5</sup> "If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out,  
Then how can you compete with horses?  
If you fall down in a land of peace,  
How will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?"

<sup>20:7</sup> O Lord, You have deceived me and I was deceived;  
You have overcome me and prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
Everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup> ...the word of the Lord has resulted  
In reproach and derision all day long.  
<sup>9</sup> But if I say, "I will not remember Him  
Or speak anymore in His name,"  
Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire  
Shut up in my bones;  
And I am weary of holding it in,  
And I cannot endure it.

<sup>14</sup> Cursed be the day when I was born;  
Let the day not be blessed when my mother bore me!

<sup>18</sup> Why did I ever come forth from the womb  
To look on trouble and sorrow,  
So that my days have been spent in shame?