**Jeremiah 11:18-20**

Then the Lord told me about the plots my enemies were making against me.I was like a lamb being led to the slaughter. I had no idea that they were planning to kill me! “Let’s destroy this man and all his words,” they said. “Let’s cut him down, so his name will be forgotten forever.”

O Lord of Heaven’s Armies,  
you make righteous judgments,  
    and you examine the deepest thoughts and secrets.  
Let me see your vengeance against them,  
    for I have committed my cause to you.

**Psalm 54**

Save me by your power, O God;  
    set me free by your might!  
Hear my prayer, O God;  
    listen to my words!

Proud people are coming to attack me;  
    cruel people are trying to kill me—  
    those who do not care about God.

But God is my helper.  
    The Lord is my defender.

May God use their own evil to punish my enemies. He will destroy them because he is faithful.

**James 3:13-4:3, 7-8**

If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don’t cover up the truth with boasting and lying.For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kinds of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

I will gladly offer you a sacrifice, O Lord;  
    I will give you thanks  
    because you are good.

You have rescued me from all my troubles,

And I have seen my enemies defeated.

**Mark 9:30-37**

They came to Capernaum, and after going indoors Jesus asked his disciples, “What were you arguing about on the road?”

But they would not answer him, because on the road they had been arguing among themselves about who was the greatest. Jesus sat down, called the twelve disciples, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must place himself last of all and be the servant of all.”

Then he took a child and had him stand in front of them. He put his arms around him and said to them, “Whoever welcomes in my name one of these children, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes also the one who sent me.”

To be a saint is to live not with hands clenched to grasp, to strike, to hold tight to a life that is always slipping away the more tightly we hold it; but it is to live with the hands stretched out both to give and to receive with gladness. To be a saint is to work and weep for the broken and suffering of the world, but it is also to be strangely light of heart in the knowledge that there is something greater than the world that mends and renews.

Source: *Now and Then,* Frederick Buechner