



Midweek Meditation



"I bear on my body the marks of Jesus." Galatians 6:17

A mother in Florida watched her son swimming in a lake near their home. She was horrified to see an alligator, unseen by her son, heading in his direction. She ran from the house down to the lake, screaming to her son to get out of the water. He swam for shore, but just as he reached it, the gator snatched his leg in its mouth. The mother grabbed her son's arm and pulled as hard as she possibly could. Both were pulling at the same time — the alligator on his leg, and the mother on his arm. Finally, the gator let go. Later, at a hospital, a friend came to see the wounded boy. "Can I see your leg," he asked. Pulling back the sheet he saw the marks that the alligator's teeth had left. But then the boy said, "You need to see my arm." Pulling back his sleeve he showed his friend horrible and painful bruises on his arm. "These marks were made by my mom," he said, "because she refused to let go."

When one of God's dear children is being pulled away by the devil, Jesus' hands will squeeze hard out of love. He may allow a severe trouble to come, a dread illness, perhaps this covid-19 pandemic, or even a death in the family. It hurts when Jesus squeezes His hands tightly around us. But how vital for us that He does not let go. And He will not. He refused to let go of the cross. The marks in His hands are proof of that. And neither does He let go of His precious sheep. No child of God enters heaven without such bruise marks in their life. None of us is so strong and faithful that we do not need Jesus squeezing hard to pull us out of Satan's jaws again and again.

Lord Jesus, You pulled me away from Satan in my Baptism. Never let go of me but keep pulling me back into the safety of Your arms, the church. Amen.