

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Reading 1: [Jeremiah 17:5-8](#)

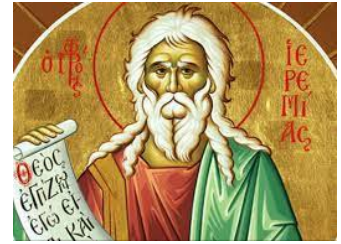
[Responsorial Psalm: 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6](#)

Reading II: [1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20](#)

Gospel: [Luke 6:17, 20-26](#)

Readings may be found on the US Bishop's website:

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/020622.cfm#main-content>



Jeremiah

Last Sunday, Jesus called Peter and the others to follow him. After spending the night in prayer, Jesus then teaches them about what discipleship means. These are presented in a series of Blessings and Woes. The blessings and woes are opposites of each other.

Blessings	Woes
Poor	Rich
Hungry	Satisfied
Weeping	Laughing
Hated	Spoken well of

These life situations are not socio-economic. They are rather the values by which one lives. Jesus cares for the poor and calls disciples feed and clothe them. True discipleship builds upon a deeper quality. They need to recognize their poverty before God, that they are not sufficient unto themselves. Peter exemplified this last week. "I am a sinful man." Those who know that they need God and others are blest. In recognizing this need, there is room for God and other disciples in one's life.

The opposite holds true as well. If one does not recognize an emptiness nor incompleteness, there is no room for God. Those who think that they can save themselves do not need a savior or God's Spirit to help them.

The other contrasts are similar. Those who recognize their hunger, their desire, the emptiness in their efforts, have room for God to do great work in them. Those who are satisfied with their life and avoid all discomfort will ultimately experience their shortfall. Those who weep for their sins, their failures, for the hurt that they have caused will rejoice when God works in their life. Those who focus only on the comforts of life and ignore the hurt and pain that exists will ultimately grieve.

If one experiences praise and honor for saying what people want to hear, they are like the false prophets who were honored, praised, and received great attention. When one speaks the truth and experiences rejection and ridicule for speaking God's truth, then one is following the true prophets who suffered and were sometimes killed for responding to God's call.

A disciple must decide what one's ultimate goal is. If one is most concerned about living a comfortable life, distant from the suffering of others, and always being liked, then that will not yield a life-giving relationship with God and the full development of the self. If one is willing to search deeply, struggle with one's faults and shortcomings, open oneself to the pain and suffering of others, and live by the truth even when it is not popular, then one will experience the gifts of life and wholeness from God.

St Augustine describes the goal of human life to be relationship with God forever. He summarized it in *City of God*:

"There we shall rest and see, we shall see and love, we shall love and praise. Behold what will be at the end without end. For what other end do we have, if not to reach the kingdom which has not end?" (De ci. Dei 22, 30, 5 PL 41, 804)

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah presents a contrast between those who rely on human effort and those who rely upon God. Jeremiah is particularly mindful of the shortcomings of political treaties for the safety of Jerusalem and those who entrust themselves to God by obedience to God's Word. Emphasizes this with the images of the bush in the desert and the one near a stream of water. One has life and the other suffering and death.

The passage from St Paul stresses the important of the believing in the resurrection of the dead. The resurrection of Christ is the promise that all will be raised. There seems to have been a dispute that yes, Jesus was raised but all the other disciples who have died, have not been raised. So, there is no hope for ordinary people. Paul is declaring that the resurrection of Jesus is a pledge, a sign, that in God's time everyone will be raised. The basic belief is that Christ has defeated death, and nothing can destroy the life that God gives. Each believer shares in the new life of Christ that unites us with God forever.

Reflection Questions:

Is your life focused on short-term, long-term, or a mixture of goals?

How do you include your ultimate vision in the decisions that you make each day?

What challenges you in the beatitudes?

What hope do you draw from the resurrection of Jesus?

Themes

Beatitudes

Hope

Life's goal

The resurrection of the dead

Prayer Suggestions:

For the Church: that the power of Christ's resurrection may give us vision and perspective for our lives and the courage to live for God each day

For growth in faith: that we may recognize our need for God in every part of our lives and deepen our trusting reliance upon God who provides all that we need for life and wholeness

For an end to violence and the exploitation of the poor: that God will raise up those who are exploited in slave-like working conditions or caught in human trafficking and heal their wounds, and lead them to a new life

For discernment: that we may see beyond the false answers of consumerism and prosperity and recognize that we will only find the true fulfillment of our hungers and desires in God