

6th Sunday of the Year C

*A curse on the man who puts his trust in man.
A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord.
(Jr 17:5.7)*



First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8

The Lord says this: "A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited.

A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit."

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12.16-20

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: "How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets."

Meditation

"Happy are you." Our consumer society claims to give us happiness, but we know very well that it is incapable of doing so. The beatitudes present a wholly different perspective. To the poor, to the hungry, to those who weep and are rejected, Jesus declares: "Happy are you." To the rich, to the powerful, to the satisfied, to the clever, he declares: "Woe to you." Those who recognize that God is their only hope will be satisfied beyond measure; whereas those who presume that the sustenance of their lives depends on their own achievement are doomed to fail.

The church in our day cannot afford to support the false hope of a consumption-oriented society. Wealth and power, money and armaments, will not bring life and happiness. Only those who seek the kingdom of God will find all else besides. "Better is the scanty store of the just than the great wealth of the wicked, for the power of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord supports the just" (Ps 37:16-17).