

February 13, 2022
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 17:5-8
Ps. 1
1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20
Luke 6:17, 20-26

Tenderness and a Warning

These past weeks we have examined our commitment to Stewardship. We have reflected on our relationship with the Lord as it is seen in our relationship with our brothers and sisters and all of the earthly environment. Together we are called to responsibility, and we humbly work to achieve discipleship, that is "having each other's back".

In today's scriptures I see the soothing tenderness of the Lord toward people who strive with sincere hearts to be good Stewards. In contrast I also see the firm warning given to those who are not Stewards but actually exploiters.

Jeremiah recognizes the person who trusts and hopes in the Lord. "He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream." Such a person is in good stead to endure all challenges. The one who seeks a relationship with the Lord is also one who is quite wise. He knows where to be planted and where to spread his roots.

The prophet also admonishes the boldly self-reliant, self-seeking, and selfish persons. Ones who turn away from the Lord. Such a one "is like a barren bush in the desert that enjoys no change of season but stands in a lava waste...." These people lead themselves to destruction while hurting people they exploit intentionally along the way.

The gospel passage written by Saint Luke shows the Lord's tenderness toward certain people. People who are harmed for following Jesus may rejoice. In their humility they are soothed. Their poverty turns into the greatness of a kingdom, their hunger into satisfaction, and their sadness into laughter.

Then, more forceful than the Prophet Jeremiah, the Gospel points a rhetorical finger at the greedy people of the world. All they have gained through their exploitation of the humble people will be *all* that they will have. It will be fleeting and only here on earth. Their consolation is only in this life. Eternity will not be joyous.

The poor stewards of this life, the exploiters, will be hungry, grieving and weeping. Their earthly "good names" will not be remembered well in eternity. They will be sullied by their own misdeeds and evil selfishness.

This is a recurring theme in the scriptures as seen both in the Prophet Jeremiah and in the Gospel of Luke. It is the theme of tenderness and warning.

Today the economic reality of all living on Earth reflects the biblical historical themes seen in this weekend's scriptures. Through this period of the Pandemic the wealth gap has exploded into the greatest inequality between the haves and have nots.

I urge you to examine two reports that are easily obtained. Just "Google" them.

Bold Justice of Broward County speaks of the poverty found locally. OXFAM International reports the worldwide situation in the report, "Inequality Kills: the unparalleled action needed to combat unprecedented inequality in the wake of COVID-19". Both put forth the bad news and the good news of what may be done to overcome the poor stewardship of greed and avarice. Do read them please.

OXFAM especially expresses the economic violence that is being committed. Just to raise your interest I will quote from the study the five facts about the world's 10 richest men.

Since the pandemic there has been the greatest annual increase in billionaire wealth since records began. It has happened in every part of the world.

Quoting from the OXFAM report.

1. The wealth of the 10 richest men has doubled, while the incomes of 99% of humanity are worse off, because of COVID.
2. The 10 richest men in the world own more than the bottom 3.1 billion people.
3. If the 10 richest men spent a million dollars each a day, it would take them 414 years to spend their combined wealth.
4. If the richest 10 billionaires sat on top of their combined wealth piled up in US dollar bills, they would reach almost halfway to the moon.
5. A 99% windfall tax on the COVID wealth gains of the 10 richest men could pay to make enough vaccines for the entire world and fill financing gaps

in climate measures, universal health and social protection, and efforts to address gender-based violence in over 80 countries, while still leaving these men \$8bn better off than they were before the pandemic.

Brothers and sisters, this is not good stewardship. There is so much that may be done to truly elevate all people from poverty. The most of us on earth simply need a better "playing field" that is not manipulated by a few.

However, regardless of the inequities, I for one will continue to serve others. I will not let the greed and avarice of others be an excuse for me to not be a good steward of what I have been given. I wish to hear and experience the tenderness of the Lord.

**Archbishop's Charities and Development Drive
ABCD**

**Disciples in Faith. Missionaries of Hope. Servants
for Charity.**

**Please make your pledge. Make sure your
pledge card designates your pledge originates
from Blessed Sacrament Parish. We must claim
our quota.**

**Our Goal
\$62,000.00
Let Us Do It!**

Time, Talent, Tithing

**It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life
itself. It is also your way of being part of the
mission and participating in the challenge of
spreading the Good News of Love.**

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| Attendance last week: | 277 |
| Tithes Collected: | \$8,748.50 |
| Online Giving: | \$604.00 |
| Total: | \$9,352.50 |

SCRIPTURE SHARING

**Thursday evenings at 7:00pm to 8:00pm.
We open up the Sunday Scriptures and share our
reflections on them.
We meet in the chapel.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahan, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 12

4:00p.a.m. † Dottie & Joe Ducato by Nancy,
Marylou, & Paul
† Yedda Paradela by Paradela
Family

Sunday, February 13

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. † Lawrence A. Cinque, Jr. by
Elaine Hall
† Robert Harris by Meadows
Family

Monday, February 14

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, February 15

8:00 a.m. Susan & Dolores by St. Vincent
de Paul Society

Wednesday, February 16

8:00 a.m. † Lucille Chase by Dan Murphy

Thursday, February 17

8:00 a.m. Persecuted Christians by Parish

Friday, February 18

8:00 a.m. William by Wife

Saturday, February 19

4:00 p.m. † Sybil Kennedy by Mary Kay &
Sonny Little

Sunday, February 20

9:00 a.m. † Jean Yves Dartois by Catherine
& Donald Dunn
10:45 a.m. Priestman Family by Parish