

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 17, 2019



THE LESSON: Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵The Lord proclaims:

Cursed are those who trust in mere humans, who depend on human strength and turn their hearts from the LORD.

⁶They will be like a desert shrub that doesn't know when relief comes.

They will live in the parched places of the wilderness, in a barren land where no one survives.

⁷Happy are those who trust in the LORD, who rely on the LORD.

⁸They will be like trees planted by the streams, whose roots reach down to the water.

They won't fear drought when it comes; their leaves will remain green.

They won't be stressed in the time of drought or fail to bear fruit.

⁹The most cunning heart—it's beyond help. Who can figure it out?

¹⁰I, the LORD, probe the heart and discern hidden motives, to give everyone what they deserve, the consequences of their deeds.

THE RESPONSE: Psalm 1

¹The truly happy person doesn't follow wicked advice,

doesn't stand on the road of sinners, and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.

²Instead of doing those things, these persons love the LORD's Instruction, and they recite God's Instruction day and night!

³They are like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right timen and whose leaves don't fade.

Whatever they do succeeds.

⁴That's not true for the wicked! They are like dust that the wind blows away.

⁵And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice—neither will sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶The LORD is intimately acquainted with the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked is destroyed.

THE EPISTLE:

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹²So if the message that is preached says that Christ has been raised from the dead, then how can some of you say, "There's no resurrection of the dead"? ¹³If there's no resurrection of the dead, then Christ hasn't been raised either. ¹⁴If Christ hasn't been raised, then our preaching is useless and your faith is useless. ¹⁵We are found to be false witnesses about God, because we testified against God that he raised Christ, when he

didn't raise him if it's the case that the dead aren't raised. ¹⁶If the dead aren't raised, then Christ hasn't been raised either. ¹⁷If Christ hasn't been raised, then your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins,¹⁸and what's more, those who have died in Christ are gone forever. ¹⁹If we have a hope in Christ only in this life, then we deserve to be pitied more than anyone else.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead. He's the first crop of the harvest of those who have died.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷Jesus came down from the mountain with them and stood on a large area of level ground. A great company of his disciples and a huge crowd of people from all around Judea and Jerusalem and the area around Tyre and Sidon joined him there. ¹⁸They came to hear him and to be healed from their diseases, and those bothered by unclean spirits were healed. ¹⁹The whole crowd wanted to touch him, because power was going out from him and he was healing everyone.

²⁰Jesus raised his eyes to his disciples and said:

"Happy are you who are poor, because God's kingdom is yours.

²¹Happy are you who hunger now, because you will be satisfied. Happy

are you who weep now, because you will laugh.

²²Happy are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you, and condemn your name as evil because of the Human One. ²³Rejoice when that happens! Leap for joy because you have a great reward in heaven. Their ancestors did the same things to the prophets.

²⁴But how terrible for you who are rich, because you have already received your comfort. ²⁵How terrible for you who have plenty now, because you will be hungry. How terrible for you who laugh now, because you will mourn and weep. ²⁶How terrible for you when all speak well of you. Their ancestors did the same things to the false prophets.

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