

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 17:5-8
Ps 1:1-4,6
1 Cor 15:12,16-20
Luke 6:17,20-26

Monday Feb. 14 Sts. Cyril and Methodius

James 1:1-11
Ps 119:67,68,71,72,75,76
Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday Feb. 15

James 1:12-18
Ps 94:12-15,18-19
Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday Feb. 16

James 1:19-27
Ps 15:2-5
Mark 8:22-26

Thursday Feb. 17

James 2:1-9
Ps 34:2-7
Mark 8:27-33

Friday Feb. 18

James 2:14-24,26
Ps 112:1-6
Mark 8:34 -- 9:1

Saturday Feb. 19

James 3:1-10
Ps 12:2-8
Mark 9:2-13

Jesus makes it clear that he sides with the downtrodden in this Sunday's Gospel reading: the poor (this could be spiritually or materially), the hungry (again, spiritually or physically; the Lord cares about all who feel empty), the weeping, the hated, the excluded, the insulted, and those who are denounced on account of their faith in him.

Whenever we contribute to someone's miseries, we are setting ourselves up against God. Bad-mouthing people, even when the complaint is justified, is working against Jesus instead of with him.

So is telling demeaning jokes, filing lawsuits that exceed fair justice, or failing to help anyone who comes to our attention and is in need of what we could share.

So is deliberately intimidating an employee or spouse, or

being consistently late and causing others to be inconvenienced by the delay, or demanding too much from others, or demanding so much of ourselves that we have no energy or time for the Lord and for the people around us.

Whenever we contribute to the miseries of others, we work against Christ.

What happens to those who continually and unrepentantly set themselves against the Lord? Oh woe! Blessed are those whose hope is in the Lord (as the



first reading and Psalm remind us), but woe inevitably comes upon those whose only hope is human frailty.

The wealthy cannot take their possessions to heaven nor can they buy their way into heaven. Meanwhile, the Lord sides with

those who suffer because this wealth had not been shared with them.

Similarly, those who laugh at the ones who cry will not laugh long, for joy at the expense of another is only temporary and never truly satisfying.

The favored and famous who currently receive accolades will be criticized the moment their backs are turned.

The downtrodden are uplifted by Jesus, but those who lift themselves up don't have enough strength to carry their burdens very well -- they are miserable even while they smile.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. In what ways do you feel downtrodden?
2. What is Jesus saying to you about this? How is he holding you? In prayer, imagine his awesome concern for you. It is real!
3. When you've felt downtrodden, how did you discover that Jesus truly cares about you?
4. What blessings come from knowing that Jesus is on your side?