

September 25, 2016

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord, make us sensitive to the needs of those who are marginalized!

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm 146:6-10

Timothy 6:11-16

Luke 16:19-31



In the first reading Amos warns those who are complacent in their wealth. They lie on beds of ivory, eat the choicest meats, drink wine, and anoint themselves in the finest of oils. The Lord God will do away with their wanton revelry.

The psalmist indicates that those who keep a firm faith, secure justice for the oppressed, and who give food to the hungry are blessed by the Lord. It is the Lord who sets captives free, raises up those bowed down, protects strangers, sustains the fatherless and the widows, and thwarts the ways of the wicked.

In the second reading Paul encourages the man of God to **pursue** devotion, faith, love, patience, and **gentleness**. The faithful are to lay hold of eternal life to which they were called when they witnessed in the presence of many others. All are to keep the commandments until the Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

In the Gospel Jesus tells a parable of the Lazarus, poor and wanting, and of the rich man who never gave him a thought even though he passed him daily. After death, Lazarus lay in the bosom of Abraham while the rich man suffered great agony and there was great impenetrable chasm between them. Seeking help for relatives the rich man is told that the greedy on earth have Moses and the prophets and they wouldn't even be persuaded to change their ways if someone should rise from the dead.



**The Father blesses those who are generous to the needy;
The Son thwarts the ways of those who only think of themselves;
The Holy Spirit guides us into compassion for the helpless.**

The rich man was a victim, not of his wealth, but of the way he misused it. Someone once said that, "For every one hundred men who can stand adversity there is only one who can withstand prosperity." The rich man's actions remind us that we need to show kindness and mercy to those in need whom we pass every day outside our homes, churches, and workplaces. In this way we will be blessed and receive a welcome for ourselves at the gates of heaven. Let us ask the Lord Jesus to open our eyes and hearts to those in need we may not be noticing. Next time you are out in public take notice of someone who really looks distressed and say a short prayer for them even if their situation is not known.

Stillness, hope, and patience belong together and enable us to tune into the ultimate harmony that can only be heard by the heart. *For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies.* (Isaiah 30:15)

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