

June 25, 2017 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

God is our strength and in him, we his chosen live in safety.

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Psalms 69:8-10,14+17,33-35

Romans 5:12-15

Matthew 10:26-33

In the first reading Jeremiah hears his critics denouncing him, watching for any misstep so they can take vengeance upon him. But the Lord is with Jeremiah and his detractors will stumble and be put to shame and brought to utter confusion. The Lord probes the minds and hearts of men and rescues the poor from the hands of the wicked.

The psalmist also experiences insults and is treated like an outcast and a stranger. He fasts and prays but there is continual gossip and even the drunkards ridicule him. His prayer is for favor and help and he is confident in it being aided. The Lord hears the poor, those in bonds, so that the lowly ones will be glad and all creation shall praise the Lord.



In the second reading Paul explains how sin entered the world through one man and death reigned from Adam to Moses. But now the gift of life abounds for the many through one man, Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel Jesus tells the Twelve not to be intimidated by anyone and only fear those who can destroy the soul. They are to speak in the light what they have heard in darkness and proclaim what was whispered to them. The disciples are to acknowledge Jesus before all men and in return they will be acknowledged before the Father. Those who disown Jesus before men will be disowned by him before the Father.

We will be acknowledged to the Father  
If we acknowledge the Son,  
And the Holy Spirit will give us the opportunities to do so.

There are times when we will be insulted and ridiculed for our Christian beliefs but take heart because even the holy prophets had suffered in this way. But Jeremiah and the psalmist knew their persistent prayer would be heard and in time they would be justified. Our search through faith and darkness and love is a great going out into the darkness, believing that Christ is there to guide us, perhaps not in the way we expect but in the way He chooses, for He is the Way. Be confident, praise our great God and a level illuminated path will open up before you.

“For I know the PLANS  
I have for you”  
declares the LORD  
“plans to PROSPER you  
and not to harm you,  
plans to give you  
HOPE and a  
FUTURE.”  
Jeremiah 29:11

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