

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest were good friends. At a picnic one day, the priest was eating a ham sandwich. "You know," he said to his friend, "this ham sandwich is delicious. I know you're not supposed to eat ham, but I don't understand why such a good thing would be forbidden. When will you break down and try it?" To which the rabbi replied, "I will at your wedding."

Dear Friends,

This week is a continuation of last week's reflection of deepening our trust in the Lord. Both the first reading and the Gospel talk about the results of our trust in the Lord and in human beings.

In the first reading Jeremiah brings a clear contrast between the blessed and cursed. He described two ways of life and its consequences. One way is the path of the cursed person who places his trust in human beings. In a historical context, Jeremiah points to Jerusalem's reliance on military and arms, as well as economic and diplomatic experience. He compares the contrast by giving an example of barren bush and tree planted near running waters. The prophet tells to trust in the lord and his pathways.

As we all know this particular passage of the Gospel is called, 'sermon on the plain'. It has some contrast with the sermon on the mount. It is addressed to the disciples of Jesus and a larger crowd of people and hearers of Jesus from a different geographical area. In Mathew's Gospel there are eight beatitudes and an explanation as ninth. Luke says four blessings and four woes. This one addresses the economic and social conditions of humanity.

This passage presents a shocking reversal of what the world considers blessed. He declares that the poor, hungry, and suffering are blessed, while the rich, well-fed, and admired face woes. This does not mean poverty and suffering are good in themselves, but that those who rely on God, despite hardships, are truly blessed.

Both the readings invite us to have more trust in God. We are all blessed when we follow God's ways in our life. God is always on the side of the poor, hungry and the downtrodden. Woes give us some warning signs how to lead our lives in a worthy way.

Life has a lot of options in this world. Whatever we choose will be the result. Jesus has blessed his disciples because they had a sincere trust in God. Those who have trust in God will have a blessed life of eternal life.

I ask you to think about how much do we trust in God?

How do we measure our success? By the world's standards? Or in God's ways?

St. Augustine says, "Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others."

This week is a real challenge for us spiritually as well as in our personal life. There are a lot of things done by parishes in the community for people in need. For example, the Social Justice Committee. There are a lot of efforts and programs done in our own parish to support the needy people in the community and worldwide. I challenge you to think about how you can support and serve on the committee to support those who are in need.

Jesus was down to earth with the poor and needy and he asks us to do the same. Let us also consider this in our faith journey.