

February 10-11, 2007

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 17:5-8

First Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

When is winning losing, and when might losing be winning? The person who wins the posh new sports car and dies in an accident the first time he/she drives it? The person who misses their flight only to discover the plane crashed? The person whose continual unemployment due to chronic behavior/personality causes them to finally seek help? The person who wins the lotto only to lose family and friends when they don't give money to everyone who asks? How about the person who seeks wholeness through possessions, only to spend sleepless nights alone and afraid? 'Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.' Huh? How can poor people obtain something so precious as the kingdom of God? Shouldn't you be able to buy it, own it, claim it...and then do with it as you wish? 'Woe to you rich, woe to you are filled, woe to you who laugh, woe to you when all speak well of you....' The Scriptures from this weekend challenge us to consider the paradox of winning sometimes being losing and losing sometimes being winning...and being capable of overtly striving to incorporate LOSING into our accomplishments. In a culture that puts supreme value on winning, obtaining and being on top, the Blessings and Woes of the Gospel passage challenge us to consider how the mind of God is different than our human cognitions. A starting point is the consideration that the Kingdom of God is a gift freely given by God to those whom he chooses....not bought with narcissistic spiritual behaviors. God sometimes gives the keys to the kingdom to those who have never darkened a church door or opened a single scripture verse because of their innate goodness...and sometimes the keys are withheld from those who have gone through all the motions...but their heart is dead and their spirit is judgmental and poisonous. This Valentine's week, when have you won by losing....and when have you lost by winning?

Thank you for sharing this pre-Valentine's Day weekend with our Corpus Christi Community. A reminder that there are extra Pastoral Services Appeal Packets on the Concierge Shelves...and we will happily accept your PSA pledge at any time...come on, join with the thousands of other parishioners in helping us retire our debt! As a nice entrée to the 'week of love' this weekend we host our Mardi Gras'esque Food Fair...come on out and enjoy some of the offerings, remember, food eaten at parish events contain no calories...honest. Please accept a Bulletin on your way home, with Lent approaching, there is news of Ash Wednesday and other happenings. Whether or not Cupid slings one his arrows your way this week...remember...you are loved. FKB