

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

This week marks the seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. You may remember that the color of Ordinary Time is green, so you will see the priests wearing green vestments during mass.

Think for a minute about a time when you felt jealous of another person. Maybe they were able to do something that you could not, or maybe they had something that you wanted. How did being jealous of someone else make you feel? In the first reading today, we will hear a story from the Old Testament about two strong and successful warriors. The older warrior was Saul, king of Israel. The younger warrior was David, whom the Lord had chosen to be king of Israel after Saul. Because the people of Israel recognized that David was even mightier than Saul, Saul became very jealous of David and decided to kill him. David escaped, but Saul continued to pursue him. This reading tells us the story of what happened when David had a chance to kill Saul.

A reading from the first book of Samuel (1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23)

One day Saul took three thousand of his best soldiers and went to look for David in the desert near Ziph. That night David and Abishai went into the camp. Saul was sleeping with his spear stuck in the ground near his head, while Abner and the soldiers were sleeping all around him. Abishai whispered to David, "This time God has given you the chance to kill your enemy. I'll pin him to the ground with his own sword, and I won't have to try but once." David whispered back, "Don't kill him! The Lord will punish anyone who kills His chosen king." David took the spear and the water jar, and then the two men left. None of Saul's soldiers knew what had happened or even woke up, because the Lord had made them fall sound asleep. David and Abishai crossed the valley and went to the top of the hill, where they were at a safe distance. David said, "Your Majesty, here is your

spear. Have one of your young men come and get it. The Lord put you in my power today. But you are His chosen king, and I refused to harm you, because the Lord rewards people who are honest and faithful. The word of the Lord.

You can see in the reading that even though Saul had tried to hurt David in the past, David shows mercy to Saul now. He spares his life and honors the sacredness of the Lord's wishes. He leaves Saul's fate up to God to handle. When David spares Saul's life, it is an excellent example of how God expects us to treat others, even if they have not always been kind to us.

Today's Responsorial Psalm is a prayer of thanks for the forgiveness of sins and healing of sickness. God is acknowledged as one who is merciful and gracious.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103:1-2, 3, and 13)

The Lord is kind and merciful.

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

With all my heart I praise the Lord, and with all that I am I praise His holy name! With all my heart I praise the Lord! I will never forget how kind He has been.

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

The Lord forgives our sins, heals us when we are sick. Just as parents are kind to their children, the Lord is kind to all who worship Him.

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

In today's gospel, we will hear from Luke's Sermon on the Plain. In this gospel, Luke is reminding us to be merciful to others, just like God is merciful to us.

Alleluia, Alleluia. *Alleluia, Alleluia.*

I give you a new commandment. Love one another as I have loved you.

*Alleluia, Alleluia.*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (Luke 6:27-37)

Jesus said to His disciples: "This is what I say to all who will listen to Me: Love your enemies, and be good to everyone who hates you. Ask God to bless anyone who curses you, and pray for everyone who is cruel to you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, don't stop that person from slapping you on the other cheek. If someone wants to take your coat, don't try to keep back your shirt. Give to everyone who asks, and don't ask people to return what they have taken from you. Treat others just as you want to be treated. "If you love only someone who loves you, will God praise you for that? Even sinners love people who love them. If you are kind only to someone who is kind to you, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners are kind to people who are kind to them. If you lend money only to someone you think will pay you back, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners lend to sinners because they think they will get it all back. "But love your enemies, and be good to them. Lend without expecting to be paid back. Then you will get a great reward, and you will be the true children of God in heaven. He is good even to people who are unthankful and cruel. Have pity on others, just as your father has pity on you. Don't judge others, and God will not judge you. Don't be hard on others, and God will not be hard on you. Forgive others, and God will forgive you." The gospel of the Lord.

Luke is telling us that Jesus wants us to think about how we treat others in our lives. He commands us not to condemn or judge other people. Instead, Jesus says that we should look into our hearts and change how we react to others, especially when they have done something wrong to us. He instructs us to love our neighbor and forgive our enemies. We should not be vindictive or want to “get back” at someone who has hurt us. Love must replace hatred, and forgiveness must overcome judgment. This is often very hard for us to do. When others aren’t nice to us or do things against us, it is very difficult to forgive them, especially when we feel hurt by their actions. We need to remember that God expects us to live by the golden rule - “Do unto others as you would have done unto you”. We should pray for others, even the ones that have done things against us, and even when it is hard to forgive them. This is how God expects us to live and He will grant blessings to those of us who are gracious to others.

May you all find peace in the love of God.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, 2022  
Judy Wargaski