



## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 17:5-8  
Ps 1:1-4,6  
1 Cor 15:12,16-20  
Luke 6:17,20-26

**Monday Feb. 15**  
James 1:1-11  
Ps 119:67-68,71-72,75-76  
Mark 8:11-13

**Tuesday Feb. 16**  
James 1:12-18  
Ps 94:12-15,18-19  
Mark 8:14-2

**Wednesday Feb. 17**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
Joel 2:12-18  
Ps 51:3-6,12-14,17  
2 Cor 5:20-6:2  
Matt 6:1-6,16-18

**Thursday Feb. 18**  
Deut 30:15-20  
Ps 1:1-4,6  
Luke 9:22-25

**Friday Feb. 19**  
Isaiah 58:1-9  
Ps 51:3-6,18-19  
Matt 9:14-15

**Saturday Feb. 20**  
Isaiah 58:9-14  
Ps 86:1-6  
Luke 5:27-32

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus makes it clear that he sides with the downtrodden: the poor (spiritually or materially), the hungry (spiritually or physically, all who feel empty), the weeping, the hated, the excluded, the insulted, and those who are denounced in a bout of their faith in him.

Whenever we contribute to someone's miseries, we are setting ourselves up against God. For example: bad-mouthing people even when the complaint is justified – this is working against Jesus instead of with him.

So is telling demeaning jokes, filing lawsuits that exceed fair justice, or failing to help anyone who comes to our attention in need of what we could share. So is deliberately intimidating an employee or spouse, or being consistently late and causing others to wait on us, or demanding too much from others,

or demanding so much of ourselves that we have no energy or time for the people around us.

Whenever we contribute to the miseries of others, we work against Christ, not with him.

What happens to those who continually and unrepentantly set themselves against the Lord? Oh woe! Blessed are those whose hope is in the Lord (as the first reading and responsorial Psalm remind us) but



woe is inevitably experienced by those who depend on themselves for happiness.

The selfish rich benefit from their wealth temporarily, but they cannot take it to heaven nor can they buy their way into heaven. Meanwhile, the Lord sides with those who would suffer because this wealth had not been shared with them.

Similarly, those who laugh at the ones who cry will not laugh long, for joy at the expense of another is only temporary and never truly satisfying.

The favored and famous who currently receive accolades will be criticized the moment their backs are turned.

The downtrodden are uplifted by Jesus, but those who lift themselves up don't have enough strength to carry the burden very well – they are miserable even while they smile.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. In what ways do you feel downtrodden?
2. What is Jesus saying to you about this? How is he holding you? In prayer, get in touch with his awesome concern for you!
3. When you've felt downtrodden, how did you discover that Jesus truly cares about you?
4. What blessings come from knowing that Jesus is on your side?