

Scripture Readings for February 17, 2019 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10 The Message (MSG)

⁵⁻⁶God's Message:

"Cursed is the strong one
who depends on mere humans,
Who thinks he can make it on muscle alone
and sets GOD aside as dead weight.

He's like a tumbleweed on the prairie,
out of touch with the good earth.

He lives rootless and aimless
in a land where nothing grows.

⁷⁻⁸"But blessed is the man who trusts me, GOD,
the woman who sticks with GOD.

They're like trees replanted in Eden,
putting down roots near the rivers—
Never a worry through the hottest of summers,
never dropping a leaf,
Serene and calm through droughts,
bearing fresh fruit every season.

⁹⁻¹⁰"The heart is hopelessly dark and deceitful,
a puzzle that no one can figure out.

But I, GOD, search the heart
and examine the mind.

I get to the heart of the human.

I get to the root of things.

I treat them as they really are,
not as they pretend to be."

Psalm 1 (NRSV)

¹Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

²but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

³They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26 Common English Bible (CEB)

¹⁷ Jesus came down from the mountain with them and stood on a large area of level ground. A great company of his disciples and a huge crowd of people from all around Judea and Jerusalem and the area around Tyre and Sidon joined him there. ¹⁸ They came to hear him and to be healed from their diseases, and those bothered by unclean spirits were healed. ¹⁹ The whole crowd wanted to touch him, because power was going out from him and he was healing everyone.

²⁰ Jesus raised his eyes to his disciples and said:

“Happy are you who are poor,
because God’s kingdom is yours.

²¹ Happy are you who hunger now,
because you will be satisfied.

Happy are you who weep now,
because you will laugh.

²² Happy are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you, and condemn your name as evil because of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice when that happens! Leap for joy because you have a great reward in heaven. Their ancestors did the same things to the prophets. ²⁴ But how terrible for you who are rich,
because you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ How terrible for you who have plenty now,
because you will be hungry.

How terrible for you who laugh now,
because you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ How terrible for you when all speak well of you.
Their ancestors did the same things to the false prophets.