

2020 June 21

## Twelfth Sunday of the Ordinary Time

### Readings:

*First: Jeremiah 20.10-13, "The Lord is with me like a dread warrior". (11a)*

*Psalm: 69, "Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good". (16a)*

*Second: Romans 5. 12-15, "The free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many" (15b)*

*Gospel: Matthew 10.26-33, "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." (28a)*

### *Fear none but the Almighty*

All the scripture readings proclaimed today give the assurance of God's presence in our life and his taking care of us in the minutest detail. Even the friends of the powerful prophet Jeremiah are plotting against him to take revenge on him. As an ordinary human, Jeremiah is frightened. However he soon comes to the awareness of God behind him as a 'dread warrior' to defend him and he is emboldened. He entrusts his cause to the Lord and leaves to him the business of retribution.

Jeremiah was a very powerful prophet. However, he was also a highly persecuted prophet, just like most prophets and men and women of God have been. However, he was also a man who enjoyed God's care and protection and consolation in a big way and whatever he tells in today's passage is true to the core. Fear and worry are factors that take up much of our time and energy, and they drive us sick, dysfunctional, and wrongly oriented in life. This happens in us because we do not trust in God our Father.

Jesus is reinforcing Jeremiah's words of confidence and trust in the Lord, and puts the same in more consoling and reassuring manner. He tells us to fear no one. If you trust in the Lord totally the secret things that you are afraid of will be revealed, the dark spots in your life will be illumined by God's ever shining light and you will be emboldened to proclaim from the roof top what you were whispering or what was whispered to you. The reassurance of Jesus to us goes to the extent of telling that God has care even for the short-lived sparrows and the lilies in the field. God knows even the hair that falls from your head and every one of them is counted.

If your God goes to such details in caring for such little things and beings of the earth, how much more he would be caring for you, whom he made in his own image and likeness, in whom he has made his abode, who provides an abode for you in his own heart, in himself? We live, move and have our very being in God and God is in us. God tells us that each of us is of great value to him and he cannot and will not abandon us at all. In this promise or covenant God is very serious and even when we humans run away from him consciously or unconsciously he runs after us to gathers us into his arms. That is our awesome God!

Fr. George