

MONDAY WEEK 12B

First Reading: 2 Kg 17: 5-8, 13-15a, 18;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 60: 3-5, 12-13;

Gospel Reading: *Mt 7:1-5*.

THEME: Imitating the Father's Love

It is wrong to conclude that painful experiences are the result of God's anger. Willful and consistent sinful acts are destructive as seen in the first reading. The events of the first reading are warnings that people have strayed from the paths of truth, love and integrity. God warns in every age through his prophets.

Jesus Christ warns us about judging others because:

1. it is easy to misjudge;
2. it is difficult to be impartial or free from bias;
3. we can't see the inner motives and intentions of people;
4. often times we don't have access to all the facts;
5. we are often swayed by instinct and unreasoning reactions to people.
6. it is easier to find faults in others than in ourselves. Christ called judging others hypocrisy. Hypocrites signify pretenders.

As a gentle Father/Supreme Judge and a skillful doctor God patiently draws us to his *seat of mercy* and to remove the cancer of sin. Before we judge others we are to remember our common frailty, in order that mercy (not hatred) may lead us to give admonition. Thinking the best of other people is necessary if we wish to grow in love. And kindness in judgment is nothing less than a sacred duty.

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