

[132] **TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME B**

FIRST READING

Are you jealous on my account?
Who decrees that all people may prophesy?

A reading from the book of Numbers

11:25-29

The Lord came down in a cloud and spoke with Moses.
Then he took some of the Spirit's power that he had given to Moses,
and he gave it to the seventy leaders.
The men prophesied,
but they did it only this one time.

Two of the leaders had stayed in camp
and had not gone out to the sacred tent.
They were Eldad and Medad.
But the Spirit also took control of them,
and they prophesied.
A young man went and told Moses,
"Eldad and Medad are prophesying in camp."

Joshua son of Nun was still a boy when he first started helping Moses.
Joshua was there at the time and said to him,
"Master, make those men stop!"

Moses replied, "Are you saying this for my good?
I wish the Lord would give his Spirit to all his people
and let them become his prophets!"

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

66:1-3ab, 4-5, 16 and 20

R. (1) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Tell everyone on this earth
to shout praises to God!
Sing about his glorious name,
Honor him with praises.
Say to God, "Everything you do is fearsome!"

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

“You are worshiped by everyone!
We all sing praises to you.”
Come and see the fearsome things
our God has done!

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

All who worship God,
come here and listen;
I will tell you everything
God has done for me.
Let's praise God!
He listened when I prayed,
and he was always kind.

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING

Your wealth is rotting.

A reading from the letter of James

5:1-6

Brothers and sisters:

You rich people should cry and weep!
Terrible things are going to happen to you.
Your treasures have already rotted,
and moths have eaten your clothes.
Your money has rusted,
and the rust will be evidence against you,
as it burns your body like fire.

Yet you keep on storing up wealth in these last days.
You refused to pay the people who worked in your fields,
and now their unpaid wages are shouting out against you.
The Lord All-Powerful has surely heard
the cries of the workers who harvested your crops.

While here on earth,
you have thought only of filling your own stomachs
and having a good time.
But now you are like fat cattle on their way to be butchered.
You have condemned and murdered innocent people,
who couldn't even fight back.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

See John 17:17b, 17a

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Your word, O Lord, is truth;
make us holy in the truth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Anyone who is not against us is for us.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

9:38-41

The disciple John said to Jesus,
“Teacher, we saw a man using your name
to force demons out of people.
But he was not one of us,
and we told him to stop.”

Jesus said to his disciples: “Don’t stop him!
No one who works miracles in my name
will soon turn and say something bad about me.
Anyone who is not against us is for us.
And anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name,
just because you belong to me,
will surely be rewarded.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Prayer:

Friend Jesus,
Thank you for all of the people who are working to make the world a better place. Please help me to recognize your love and spirit in all people.
In your name we pray.
Amen

Readings:

Numbers	11:25-29
Psalm	66:1-3ab, 4-5, 16 and 20
James	5:1-6
Mark	9:38-41

Reflection:

Today's 1st reading and Gospel are about the necessity for everyone to use the gifts God has given them to make the world a better place. Both stories tell about some people who were not part of the "chosen group" but who were doing good things. Members of the groups were upset because they thought they should be the only ones who should be able to do good things. Moses and Jesus both said, "How silly is that? We are trying to make the world better and anyone who wants to help is welcome!"

Being part of a group like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, our Church, our family, and our neighborhood or part of a team, such as soccer, baseball, etc, makes us proud because we share many of the same beliefs with the group and we work with the group to reach goals. We usually know the other people in group fairly well. Sometimes we get so caught up in being part of that group that we become competitive with other groups. For example, we think our school is better than another school or our team plays better than another team or our church is better than another church. This makes it hard to see the good things that other groups are doing.

Today we are taught that every one is responsible for building God's Kingdom no matter what group to which they belong. We ALL belong to the biggest group of all, God's family and as part of that group we must use our talents to make the world a better place. We must also appreciate the talents that other people offer towards that same goal. Just because someone does not go to our church or our school does not mean they can't be good people, serving God and doing good things for the world.

Discussion/Activity: Trail Mix

Materials needed: A bag of plain M&Ms, a box of raisins, Granola, small pretzels, small bowls, a large bowl, spoons and baggies.

Preparation: Place each of the food items in a small bowl. The kids will be separated into small groups. Each group will have one of the items. Once group will have the M&Ms, another will have the raisins, another will have the spoons, another will have the big bowl, etc.

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Discussion:

Tell the children that they are going to make Trail Mix, which is a very yummy snack and that after it is made every one will be able to take a small bag of it home with them. Talk to the children about the components each group has. Talk about which component might be “the best.” They will probably say the M&Ms but then talk about how salty items such as the nuts and pretzels make the candy taste even sweeter. Talk about the necessity of the large bowl to mix it up. Talk about how hard it would be to take it home without the baggies. Correlate this to today’s message about everyone using their own gifts to make the world better and how different groups can work together to accomplish this goal. Have each group contribute their part to making the Trail Mix. Give each student a bag to take home.