

[76] SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

FIRST READING

The Lord has put you in my power,
but I will not raise my hand against you.

A reading from the first book of Samuel

26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

One day Saul took three thousand of his best soldiers
and went to look for David in the desert near Ziph.

That night David and Abishai went into the camp.
Saul was sleeping with his spear stuck in the ground near his head,
while Abner and the soldiers were sleeping all around him.

Abishai whispered to David,
“This time God has given you the chance to kill your enemy.
I’ll pin him to the ground with his own sword,
and I won’t have to try but once.”

David whispered back, “Don’t kill him!
The Lord will punish anyone who kills his chosen king.”

David took the spear and the water jar,
and then the two men left.
None of Saul’s soldiers knew what had happened or even woke up,
because the Lord had made them all fall sound asleep.

David and Abishai crossed the valley and went to the top of the hill,
where they were at a safe distance.

David said, “Your Majesty, here is your spear.
Have one of your young men come and get it.
The Lord put you in my power today.
But you are his chosen king,
and I refused to harm you,
because the Lord rewards people who are honest and faithful.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

103:1-2, 2 and 13

R. (8a) The Lord is kind and merciful.

With all my heart
I praise the Lord,
and with all that I am
I praise his holy name!
With all my heart
I praise the Lord!
I will never forget
how kind he has been.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord forgives our sins,
heals us when we are sick.
Just as parents are kind
to their children,
the Lord is kind
to all who worship him.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

ALLELUIA

John 13:34

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

6:27-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

“This is what I say to all who will listen to me:
Love your enemies,
and be good to everyone who hates you.
Ask God to bless anyone who curses you,
and pray for everyone who is cruel to you.

If someone slaps you on one cheek,
 don't stop that person from slapping you on the other cheek.
If someone wants to take your coat,
 don't try to keep back your shirt.
Give to everyone who asks
 and don't ask people to return what they have taken from you.
Treat others just as you want to be treated.

"If you love only someone who loves you,
 will God praise you for that?
Even sinners love people who love them.
If you are kind only to someone who is kind to you,
 will God be pleased with you for that?
Even sinners are kind to people who are kind to them.
If you lend money only to someone you think will pay you back,
 will God be pleased with you for that?
Even sinners lend to sinners
 because they think they will get it all back.

"But love your enemies and be good to them.

"Lend without expecting to be paid back.
Then you will get a great reward,
 and you will be the true children of God in heaven.
He is good even to people who are unthankful and cruel.
Have pity on others,
 just as your Father has pity on you.

"Don't judge others,
 and God will not judge you.
Don't be hard on others,
 and God will not be hard on you.
Forgive others,
 and God will forgive you."

The gospel of the Lord.



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C



Readings:

Samuel 26: 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Psalm 103: 1,2 and 13

Luke 6: 27-37



The valuable statement in today's Gospel says, *Treat others just as you want to be treated.* Imagine what the world would be like if we all took this to heart and made it our guiding light. Today let us pray for strength to do all we can to love those we don't get along with, pay attention to those in need, and be kind and merciful to one another.



Materials needed:

- Items that have a gold color or coating, e.g. gift box wrapped in gold paper, or a gold colored figurine or vase.
- Large flash card with the GOLDEN RULE written on one side (Treat others just as you want to be treated). On the other side, write the word NAMASTE.



Opening Prayer:

Jesus, you tell us in the Bible to treat others as we want to be treated.

Open your ears now to listen to your Word that teaches us how to love and respect others, even when it is hard. We ask this in your name. Amen.



First Reading

- Tell the children that after the First Reading is finished, you will ask them what they heard.
- Read the reading, then ask for volunteers to share a word or thought. Did anyone hear that David wanted Saul's life be spared; that David was merciful to Saul and let him live when he had a chance to take his life?



Responsorial Psalm

- After praying the Responsorial Psalm, ask if the refrain, THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL had any connections with the First Reading. Recall that David was kind and merciful to Saul. So, the Lord is kind and merciful to us when we make wrong choices.



Gospel

- Read the Gospel. Ask the children for parts that surprised them, or that they didn't quite understand or agree with, e.g. getting slapped, then turning the other cheek for another slap.
- Point out the GOLDEN RULE in the gospel reading, Treat others just as you want to be treated. Read it on the flashcard. Refer to the items that are gold in color (vase or box wrapped in gold paper) and speak about how some things made of gold are verryrry valuable. The Golden Rule is very valuable because it talks about our need to treat others with respect and love as we want to be treated. Each person is valuable in God's eyes. We need to show kindness and mercy to each person we meet because they are valuable.

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- Show the other side of the flashcard with the word NAMASTE, pronounced *nah' mah stay*. This is a greeting often used in India that means, *The God in me honors the God in you*. Hands are folded prayerfully at the waist and a slight bow from the waist is made when two people exchange this greeting. Have the children stand and greet each other with NAMASTE. After giggles subside because of this new gesture, the children will hopefully realize the great respect they are expressing toward each other. They are adding an action to the meaning of the Golden Rule. We must treat each other with great respect because God lives in each person.

Creed

Continue with a simple Profession of Faith.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: Yes, I believe in God the Father.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son?

All: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit of God?

All: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit of God.

Leader: This is our faith. Let's be proud to say we believe. Amen.

Spontaneous Prayer of Petition

Invite children to pray for special needs.

Closing Prayer in echo form

Jesus, you teach us how to love.....

Help us to treat each other.....

with love and respect.....

because you live in each person.....

Help us to be kind and merciful.....

Amen.....