

[133] **TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME C**

FIRST READING

Try to please God and be like him.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy

6:11b-12a

Try your best to please God and to be like him.

Be faithful, loving, dependable, and gentle.
Fight a good fight for the faith.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

25:4-5abc, 6 and 7cd

R. (4a) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Show me your paths
and teach me to follow;
guide me by your truth
and instruct me.
You keep me safe.

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Please, Lord, remember,
you have always
been patient and kind.
Show how truly kind you are
and remember me.

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

ALLELUIA

2 Corinthians 8:9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Anyone who is not against us is for us.
now he is comforted while you are in agony.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

16:19-31

Jesus told his disciples this story:

“There was once a rich man who wore expensive clothes
and every day ate the best food.
But a poor beggar named Lazarus
was brought to the gate of the rich man’s house.
He was happy
just to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table.

“His body was covered with sores,
and dogs kept coming up to lick them.
The poor man died,
and angels took him to the place of honor next to Abraham.

“The rich man also died and was buried.
He went to hell and was suffering terribly.
When he looked up and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side,
he said to Abraham, ‘Have pity on me!
Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and touch my tongue.
I’m suffering terribly in this fire.’

“Abraham answered,
‘My friend, remember that while you lived,
you had everything good,
and Lazarus had everything bad.
Now he is happy, and you are in pain.
And besides, there is a deep ditch between us,
and no one from either side can cross over.’

“But the rich man said,
‘Abraham, then please send Lazarus to my father’s home.
Let him warn my five brothers,
so they won’t come to this horrible place.’

“Abraham answered,
‘Your brothers can read what Moses and the prophets wrote.
They should pay attention to that.’

“Then the rich man said, ‘No, that’s not enough!

If only someone from the dead would go to them,
they would listen and turn to God.'

“So Abraham said,
“If they won't pay attention to Moses and the prophets,
they won't listen even to someone who comes back from the dead.”

The gospel of the Lord.



**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C**

Prayer:
Dear God,
Please help me to pay attention to those who do not have enough to eat or a place to live and to do my best to help them.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Readings:
First Letter of Paul to Timothy 6:11b-12a
Psalm 25:4-5abc, 6 and 7cd
Luke 16:19-31

Reflection:
"Try your best to be ...like God. Be faithful, loving, dependable and gentle." This is how St. Paul says God wants us to be. In today's Gospel we hear a story about a man who wasn't like this and what happened to him. It is the story of the rich man and Lazarus who is a poor man. It might be easy to think that the story doesn't mean anything to us because most of us are not considered "rich" and in many of our neighborhoods we don't really see "poor" people. You should think about being rich and poor a different way, though. There are so many people who don't have a place to live, food to eat, coats to wear in the winter, toys to play with, etc. To those people, any of us who have a home, food, electricity to make our homes warm in the winter and cool in the summer, toys, a bed to sleep in, clothes that are clean, a bathtub to take a bath in, we are rich. Jesus told this story to remind those of us who have things that others do not, to share and to help those who need help. That is what being faithful, loving, dependable and gentle is about. We need to be like Jesus and go out and find someone to help, not wait for them to come asking. We need to look at all of the different ways a person could be poor; the kids who only have one parent living with them, the older person who is lonely, the girl in our class who has no friends, the boy who struggles with math, etc. When we truly look at people we will see their poverty. Pray that we can be like God not like the rich man and do whatever we can to help them while being grateful for all of the gifts God has given to us.

Discussion:

1. Do all children have enough food to eat?
2. Do all children have a place to live?
3. What can we do to help children who do not have what they need?
4. What does the Gospel story teach us about caring for those who are poor?



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Activity: A Simple Toy

Materials Needed: Large buttons, pre-cut string.

Directions:

1. Give each child a button and a piece of string.
2. Instruct the class to thread the string through 2 holes of the button and tie the ends of the string together.
3. Ask the children to place one loop of the string around their thumb and the other around their pinky finger. They should then wind the button around and around and then pull the ends of the string to make the button spin.

Lesson:

1. Ask the children what toys they like to play with.
2. Explain that poor children do not have many toys so they make their own such as this one.
3. Ask them to remember to thank God for all of the good things they have, pray for children who are poor and look for ways to help people, every time they play with this new toy.
4. Remind them NOT TO PLAY WITH IT IN CHURCH!