

Sunday Readings Reflections of 10/25/15

Reading 1 Jeremiah 31:7-9

People who foretell times of trouble are often called "prophets of doom and gloom." At times Jeremiah had to fulfill that role for the Israelites. However, in today's reading, he assures God's people that they will be released from captivity in Assyria. Their return will be like a new exodus from Egypt of old. God speaks through Jeremiah of a triumphant and joyful homecoming. Our God is a God of freedom and salvation from slavery of every kind. No matter how far away we wander, he is always ready to welcome us home through the Church and the sacraments.

Reading 2 Hebrews 5:1-6

In Old Testament times, the high priest was chosen to serve as the people's representative before God. He offered sacrifices to atone or make up for the sins of the people as well as his own sins. Jesus, however, was greater than any high priest chosen from the priestly clan of Israel. As the Son of God, he has no equal.

We join with the sacrifice of Jesus each time we celebrate the Eucharist. He knows our human weakness because he has shared it. And he does not place himself far above us but shares his glory with us.

Gospel Mark 10:46-52

When someone calls attention to himself in a crowd, others sometimes say, "Stop making a spectacle of yourself!" In today's gospel story, it is the blind beggar Bartimaeus who is irritating the crowd. He is shouting so persistently to Jesus that the people are embarrassed by this public display of neediness. They attempt to shush him. But Bartimaeus shouts, "Son of David, have pity on me!" Jesus hears the beggar's plea and restores his sight. He tells Bartimaeus that his own faith has healed him.

We all suffer from blindness of one kind or another because we fail to see things as Jesus does. "I want to see" should be our daily prayer to him.

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