

## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 6, 2019

### GOSPEL LUKE 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here immediately and take your place at table'?

Would he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished'? Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded?

So should it be with you.

When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 6, 2019

### GOSPEL [LUKE 17:5-10](#)

*Taken from Opening the Word; "Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C" p168-169*

1. In today's Gospel reading, the apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith. **What should we do when we feel we don't have enough faith? Do you really believe that there is nothing you could do to earn or deserve God's love, but that he loves you just because of who he is? Why or why not? And are you really ready to be a generous receiver? Why or why not?**

2. In today's Gospel reading we learn that if we have even a little faith, we can do great things. In the first reading the prophet Habakkuk feels discouraged and cries out to God for an answer. God's reply is to call Habakkuk to a radical faith—the kind of faith that moves mountains.

(In the First Reading), Habakkuk asks God, "How long, O LORD? I cry for help but you do not listen! I cry out to you, 'Violence!' but you do not intervene. Why do you let me see ruin; why must I look at misery? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and clamorous discord." Think about a time in your life when you felt you were crying out to God without receiving any answer or help. **How did you feel? How did you react? Did you ever receive an answer, or are you still waiting? How did you feel when you finally did receive an answer?**

3. The Lord tells Habakkuk that the vision will not disappoint and will surely come in the right time. **In what situation or area of your life is God calling you to radical faith this week?**

#### VIDEO RESOURCES

[27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Formed.org](#)

## 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 13, 2019

### GOSPEL LUKE 17:11-19

As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests."

As they were going they were cleansed.

And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan.

Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

## 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 13, 2019

### GOSPEL [LUKE 17:11-19](#)

*Taken from Opening the Word; "Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C" p176-178*

1. **What are some of the characteristics shared by the ten lepers?** From the details in the passage, describe the one leper who returned to thank Jesus.
2. Leprosy was one of the biggest social stigmas of Jesus' time. Lepers were not allowed to live in society, but had to live apart. They could not participate in the worship of God in the Temple, as they were unclean; they had to announce their presence by shouting, "unclean, unclean!" **What are some examples of modern-day lepers? How do our fears cause us to treat certain people or groups of people without the dignity they deserve? What does Jesus' behavior teach us?**
3. Imagine that you are the one leper who returned to thank Jesus. As you were journeying toward the priest, you look down at your hands and realize that you have been healed. Your entire body has been restored to health! Even though you are anxious to be restored to the community, you cannot go on without returning to thank Jesus, the one who has done this great act for you. Take a few minutes to put yourself in that leper's place. **What would you have been thinking or feeling at the different stages of this story: when you first asked Jesus to heal you; when you later realized on your way to the priest that you were actually healed; as you were on the way to thank Jesus; and as you fell at his feet in gratitude.**

**Pray today that God will give you this same type of joy, gratitude, and desire to thank Jesus for the great things he has done for you in your life.**

#### VIDEO RESOURCES

**[28th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Formed.org](#)**

## 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 20, 2019

### GOSPEL LUKE 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.

He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'"

The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them?

I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily.

But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

# 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 20, 2019

## GOSPEL [LUKE 18:1-8](#)

*Taken from Opening the Word; "Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C" p186-187*

1. Is there a time in your life when you have felt like the widow in today's Gospel reading, persistently making your request over and over again? **How did the persistence pay off?**

In the parable in today's Gospel reading, Jesus teaches us about the importance of persistence in prayer. As we take time to pray and meditate on this Scripture, let's keep in mind that we are created for communion with God, and that prayer prepares us for the perfect communion we will have with him in heaven.

Prayerfully place yourself in today's Gospel reading. Imagine that you are the widow, persistently bringing your request before the unjust judge. **How do you feel presenting your request over and over again? What motivates you to be persistent?**

Now imagine that instead of petitioning an unjust judge, you are bringing your request before the most honest, just, and merciful judge, God himself. **How do you feel presenting your petition now?**

We are called to be persistent in prayer, and we have confidence because we petition our loving Father, not an unjust judge. Prayerfully ask God to help you see an area in your life in which you need to pray more and be more persistent in prayer.

### VIDEO REOURCES

[29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Formed.org](#)

## 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 27, 2019

### GOSPEL LUKE 18:9-14

Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else.

"Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself,

'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity -- greedy, dishonest, adulterous -- or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.'

But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed,

'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'

I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

# 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 27, 2019

## GOSPEL [LUKE 18:9-14](#)

*Taken from Opening the Word; "Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C" p194-195*

1. .... God does not always see things the way we do. **What are some differences you noticed about how the Pharisee approaches God with his prayer and how the tax collector approaches God?**

2. How does being "poor" before God go against the way you have been taught to think about yourself and others?

3. The readings today encourage us to approach God in our poverty, as a "poor" person. But it is often our deep fears and insecurities that prevent us from admitting our weaknesses and our "poverties," and instead we try to hide them. **What do you want to hide? What are you afraid of letting others see? Do you have a deep fear or insecurity inside you that sometimes drives the way you relate to others, especially those closest to you? How does that fear affect your relationship with God?**

4. Place yourself in the Temple scene of today's Gospel reading. You see the Pharisee standing at the front and hear him tell God about his accomplishments. Then you notice the tax collector and hear him simply admit his weaknesses to God.

**Which one do you sympathize with? Which one do you feel the most in common with? Now invite the Holy Spirit to join you.** Ask the Spirit to show you an area in your life that you are afraid to let him see. It's ironic—he sees it already, but we can spend all kinds of energy trying to hide it, even acting as if it isn't even there. Our anger, our struggle trusting God, our resentment about a past injury or wound, our struggle with selfishness, insecurity, or lust.

5. Pray that God would help you see an area like this in your life, in your heart. And ask for the grace to let him into it. Now, imagine that it is your turn to pray with the Pharisee and tax collector. **Where do you stand? What do you say? How do you feel?**

### VIDEO RESOURCES

[30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Formed.org](#)