

■ 73rd Sharing of the Word

● First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Jeremiah was a prophet who was active in the late period of the Kingdom of Judah (Southern Israel) around the 6th century B.C. He pointed out the sins of the people, prophesied the Babylonian exile, and suffered persecution. Those who rely on their own abilities, others, or material wealth are cursed and turn away from God. As a result, they encounter loneliness and difficulties, their vitality weakens, and they become like withered beings, distancing themselves from God's blessings. In contrast, those who trust in God are blessed, prosper like a tree planted by the water, and remain steadfast even in hardships (such as heat and drought). They accomplish God's works, bear abundant fruit, and experience peace and prosperity in life.

【Curse】

In the Old Testament, curses manifest as war, disease, famine, and other calamities (such as the Babylonian exile) (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). In the New Testament, a curse is the loss of eternal life, resulting in permanent separation from God (Matthew 25:41). It is not merely an accidental misfortune but is considered a material consequence from God. Depending on one's own strength or others' help leads to an unstable psychological state, as described in Jeremiah 17:6, causing constant fear and uncertainty. Jeremiah 2:13 states that human efforts apart from God are incomplete and useless, and turning away from God leads to a curse. Obeying God's teachings brings blessings (Deuteronomy 28:1-14). Those who sever their connection with God will experience emptiness and confusion, relying on themselves or worldly values, leading to an ongoing state of instability and difficulty in attaining peace.

● Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

In the church of Corinth, some denied the resurrection of the dead. Paul affirmed the truth of Jesus' resurrection, emphasizing that since Christ has already risen, the resurrection of the dead is indeed possible. Jesus' resurrection serves as proof that sins are forgiven. If Christ had not risen, the faith of believers would be meaningless. Those who died believing in Jesus would simply perish without hope. However, because of Jesus' resurrection, hope is granted to them as well.

The phrase "the most miserable" refers to the gap between "human expectations" and "God's plan." The former believes that faith in Jesus leads to success and blessings in this world, while the latter focuses on the assurance of "eternal life" through resurrection, rather than worldly success and pleasure (2 Corinthians 11:23-27). Jesus, as the "firstfruits" (the first harvest), guarantees our resurrection through faith in Him (1 John 3:2). Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 15:50).

【Resurrection】

Lazarus (John 11:43-44) was temporarily revived in the flesh, but he eventually faced death again. Resurrection, however, is not merely a physical revival but a transformation by God's power into a new "spiritual body" (a glorified body). At the time of resurrection, believers become imperishable (1 Corinthians 15:42), and after resurrection, they will never die again (Romans 6:9).

● Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17, 20-26

Jesus descended from the mountain and began speaking to the people on a level place, which differs from the "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5:3-12.

1. The poor (those suffering financially and seeking God's help) will be enriched by God.
2. The hungry (those longing for communion with God and thirsting for His love, as in Psalm 119:103) will be satisfied by God.

- 3.Those who weep (those suffering hardships and sorrow in this world) will receive comfort from God.
 - 4.Those who are hated, insulted, and falsely accused (those persecuted for following God) will be rewarded by Him (Matthew 5:11-12).
 - 5.The rich (those who have gained wealth and rewards in this world) will be far from God's comfort.
 - 6.Those who are satisfied now (those who feel no need for God) will distance themselves from Him and experience emptiness (Revelation 3:17).
 - 7.Those who laugh now (those who find joy and pleasure in worldly satisfaction) will eventually mourn.
 - 8.Those who seek praise from others (those who desire human approval and admiration) will not receive God's recognition (John 12:43).
- "The Kingdom of God is among you" (Luke 17:21).

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