

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**February 7 and 10, 2022**

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Jeremiah 17: 5-8**

**Luke 6: 17, 20-26**

**1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20**

**1. Jeremiah 17: 5-8**

- V. 5: Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings: instead of trusting in God. Those who trust in mortals and turn away from God are in trouble.
- V. 6: The person who trusts in human beings and not God are like a bush that is in the desert or the wastelands that does not bloom and has no nourishment from the soil
- V.7: Blessed are they who trust in the Lord—they have the Lord to sustain them
- V. 8: In contrast to the barren bush, they are like a thriving tree near water that has all the nourishment and water that it needs to grow. Even if heat or drought comes, it is safe. The one who trusts in God has all he/she needs even if trouble comes into his/her life.

**2. Luke 6: 17, 20-26**

- Compare with Matthew 5: 1-12
- Jesus meets the disciples on the plain instead of on the mountain as in Matthew. It suggests a greater solidarity and closeness to disciples. However, Matthew is trying to connect Jesus Sermon on the Mount with Moses receiving the Law on Mt. Sinai.
- Blessed: the poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the persecuted are in an advantageous position in view of the coming judgement of God that will turn everything upside down. A good translation would be, "Congratulations to the poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the persecuted because you are going to possess the Kingdom, be satisfied, laugh, and be vindicated when God comes to judge.
- But woe to those who are rich now, those filled up now, those who laugh now, those who are spoken well of now, because you will be at a disadvantage when God brings judgement.
- A theme of Luke's Gospel is that God judgement will bring a great reversal of fortune. We see it in Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1: 51-53: "He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty." What appears to be an advantage now is actually a liability.
- This is an oxymoron—the holding together of two opposite thoughts. Blessed and poor, hungry, weeping, persecuted/Woe and rich, filled, laughing, spoken well of. God is going to rescue those who are suffering now. So, it is better to be suffering so that you can receive God's salvation.

- Our values must be those of the coming Kingdom of God. We judge the worth of things by what their value will be in God's future and not the present.

**3. 1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20**

- Paul is addressing the doubts that the Corinthians have about the reality of the bodily resurrection. Having asserted the common faith they all have that Jesus dies, rose and appeared to disciples in 15: 1-11, he now points out inconsistencies if they do not believe in the bodily resurrection. If there is no resurrection, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, then our faith means nothing and our preaching is useless. If Christ has not been raised, then our sins are not forgiven. If Christ has not been raised, then the dead are without hope. If Christ is not raised from the dead, then we are to be pitied because all our hope rests in his resurrection.