

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**June 19, 2023**

**THE TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Jeremiah 20: 10-13**

**Matthew 10: 26-33**

**Romans 5: 12-15**

**1. Jeremiah 20: 10-13**

- This Chapter 20 is called Jeremiah's Interior Crisis. Due to the persecution he is suffering and the stress and anxiety it is producing in him, he rethinks his prophetic commitment. In V. 7, he wonders if God has tricked him. Like a lover, he has been misled by false promises. He laments that he is ridiculed and abused. He decided to forget about God and not speak of him again, but the word of God is like a fire in his heart that he cannot ignore.
- V. 10: He is aware of what his so-called friends have been gossiping about him. He is betrayed by those whom he counted as friends. They plot against him to trick him and make him fail.
- V. 11: Jeremiah renews his faith and trust in God. The Lord is his defense. God is vindicator who will rescue him and make his enemies fail.
- V. 12: Jeremiah acknowledges that God tests the good person and sees what is in their heart. He asks to see God's vengeance on his enemies.
- V. 13: Jeremiah praises God who is the defender of the poor and the powerless.

**2. Matthew 10: 26-33**

- Jesus has warned his disciples of inevitable persecution and rejection. Now he reassures them that this is not unnoticed by God.
- V. 26: Do not be afraid of those who oppose you and persecute you. The truth will come out. If it is not seen now, it will be revealed in the future.
- V. 27: The disciples should announce the Kingdom of God fearlessly and publicly because it is truth and truth will win out. Enemies will see that what the disciples preach is really the truth.
- V. 28: Jesus urges the disciples to see that God has the ultimate say. Mortal enemies may take your earthly life, but God has the power to take away your eternal life. How God judges is much more important than what humans judge.
- V. 29: His eye is on the sparrow. God even watches over the little sparrow. So, how much more will he watch over you?
- V. 30: God has intimate knowledge of us. He knows us better than we know ourselves. He even knows the number of hairs on our head!
- V. 31: Let the knowledge that God has of us encourage and strengthen us.
- V. 32: If we acknowledge God before others, he will acknowledge us before God the Father.
- V. 33: However, if we deny Jesus before humans, He will deny us before God.

### 3. Romans 5: 12-15

- Paul reflects on the sin of Adam. Adam and Eve are not historical figures but representative of all humanity. The sin of Adam and Eve is not mere disobedience of God's command not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but rather it represents a human tendency to not accept our status as creature in obedience to our Creator. We will not let God be God in our life. We try to take control with disastrous consequences. If we just let God guide and direct our life, and follow his plan for us, then we will be much happier.
- When Paul uses the word "sin," he is referring to the power of evil that holds humanity captive. Jesus came to set us free of that captivity by conquering sin through his death and resurrection. The fruit of his death and resurrection is that we have the power of sanctifying grace to overcome the grip that evil has on us. We have the power to do what is right and reject what is wrong.
- Even before God gave the Law to Moses, sin was in the world. That sin was the sin of Adam which represents the sin of human beings rejecting God's plan and rebelling against him. We cannot blame Adam for our sin because we do the same as Adam, we reject God's plan for us and rebel against God as our Creator.
- The fruit of Christ's death and resurrection far surpasses the consequences of Adam's sin. In Christ's redemptive action, the divine life of God (grace) floods our soul and restores our intimate relation with God that we had lost through Adam's sin.