

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary time Cycle A

Zephaniah warned the people of Judah to be humble, observe the law, and to seek justice and humility, or they would face God's anger on the day of the Lord. If they refrained from lies and spoke honestly they would enjoy prosperity. They ignored God's advice and suffered terribly later. Many people fail to heed warnings until it is too late. Please do not be one of them. Make sure your life follows the ways of Christ.

Saint Paul reminds us that how God measures greatness, differs from how humans measure it. For humans, noble birth, power and knowledge are important. For God the greatest of all, must be the servant of all. God often chooses those the world thinks as lowly or despised to enlighten and to shame the proud and the arrogant. We are called to preach the Gospel. Do not believe that you are unworthy or incapable of performing this task.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus like Moses went up the mountain. On the mountain Moses received the Law from God. Jesus is God, he himself gave us today's teachings called the beatitudes. Some call them the "Be-Attitudes" as his teaching tells us how we have to behave or the attitudes we need to have. All Christians are called to have all of the mentioned dispositions and not just some of them.

To be Poor in Spirit = to depend on God for all our spiritual needs.

To mourn goes beyond being sad at the death of a loved one = to recognize the suffering in the world and to wish to do something about it.

To be clean of heart refers to a single-minded devotion to God and to make Him the center of our lives.

We are also called to be meek, merciful, and peacemakers.

However, rather than receiving an earthly reward for doing good, we shall be persecuted, insulted and falsely accused like Jesus who was falsely accused, unjustly condemned and cruelly executed.

Rejoice and be glad for our reward will be great in heaven. We shall be shown mercy and comforted. We shall see God and be called children of God. We shall have eternal happiness.

Please support the upcoming ABCD. Many thanks to several parishioners for their continued generosity. Special thanks to the sixteen who each gave more than \$1,000 in 2022.

I wish everyone who has a job and have never participated in the ABCD, to contribute a minimum of \$200 this year. Over a period of ten months, it is twenty dollars a month or 67 cents a day

For those who have never given at all, think of how generous you were with yourselves at Christmas. New car, new phone, new large screen TV, jewelry, etc.

Can you also be generous to our needy brothers and sisters.

Please give to the ABCD.

Mother Teresa tells us that when we get to heaven's door, St Peter will ask "what acts of charity have you done recently?"

Your password will be ABCD.