

25th SUNDAY YEAR B 2021

THE WORLD OF ENVY AND BAD AMBITIONS.

Envy and jealousy are great subjects of the media, television programmers, soap operas, movie plots, and obviously they have become a great part of our personal way of life. Christians are called to live in peace and harmony despite all these influences from the media. Being in this world we are not immune to these vices of envy, jealousy, self-seeking, and bad ambitions.

All our readings this Sunday are geared toward envy and ambitions. The first reading from Wisdom talks of the godless persecuting the virtues of a person since he is blameless, trusts in God's wisdom, has faith in God and obeys His commandments and stands for the truth. This is a great challenge to the godless person, and he wants to test his patience and gentleness through condemning these virtues, all to derail him and pursue his bad ambitions. This is what is happening in our present society of bad competitions and ambitions. As Christians we are called to stand firm. Are you doing this yourself? The book of James pursues the same elements and stresses how damaging these can be in the society and the community. He is calling us to avoid **envy, disharmony, and wickedness**. He is calling for wisdom which brings **peace, kindness, and consideration** thus bringing the **unity** of the community which bears fruits of **justice**.

Jesus Christ in the Gospel detects certain ambitions from his own apostles as they travelled arguing **who is the greatest and close** to Jesus. He knew how this can tear the group to pieces thus damaging them due to envy. He took the opportunity of teaching them **Humility**. **Pursuing ambitions will have** a negative effect, even spiritually. It will affect and damage and destroy **family, relationships, and fellowships**. Jesus saw the apostles at such a point of fighting for position which was creating conflict and division, thus damaging the unity.

He took the chance to teach on the true ambition and the need for humility and **service** to others and especially to the **weak members**. He didn't say ambition is bad, but he redefined what it is as **desire to serve**. He stated categorically that the greatest in the kingdom of God should be the servant of all with the qualities of a small child ***simplicity, humility, obedience innocence, purity, and dependence***. What a great teaching for us today as compared to envy and bad ambition. We must practice these great virtues. We are called to accept our weakness and vulnerability thus trusting in God as a child. No matter **who we are, what we are**, essentially, we are **nothing without God**. Our weakness leads us to **trust and rely on God's providence**. **Envy, jealousy, pride, greed, malice, disputes, and disharmony will lead us away from God**. They destroy our inner peace and makes it difficult for us to **love, thus leading us to insult others, torture, and place condemnation on anyone who stands in our way**. Jesus teaches us the way of service, humility, and suffering thus leading us to a life of **joy, beauty, and true greatness**.

What is your choice today?