

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS FIFTH SUNDAYS OF LENT YEAR-B.2024.

DYING TO PRODUCE:

Prophet Jeremiah was sent by God on a mission of **mercy to warn** Gods people that they were living at the edge of catastrophe unless they change their ways of life of **idolatry, social injustice, human sacrifice and immorality.** They had kept away from the **commandments and the covenant.** They could avoid the disaster if they listened to the prophet but they **ignored him and even persecuted him for the message.** 600 years Jesus is talking about the new covenant of his body and blood to the Jews which too they ignored. Are we keeping that covenant? Do we keep Gods commandments in our present day time? Definitely we need a Jeremiah of our time to address serious issues facing us in our modern society where it is attempting to keep God out daily happenings the results might be more disastrous indeed.

The setting for the gospel today (Jn.12:20-33) is Jerusalem, few days before the Jewish Passover, soon Judas will **betray Jesus** and Jesus will **be arrested, condemned and put to death.** His death was **immanent** and this is how he prepared for it by today's parable of the dying seed.

Coming from a tropical small scale farming background in African, it is always exciting to see people planting single seed, burying it on the ground, dying, and few days springing up in a different form of a plant. After taking care of it, it ends up in producing more grains than that single seed! What a comparison Jesus is putting across to us that we **must have a change of so many things if we have to be productive in our spiritual, moral way.** We must die to self to **live for**

God and others! We must die to self to realize our potentiality, die to selfishness so as to be generous, hatred to bring love and peace, pride to bring equality. There are so many seeds we have which seeds to be buried within us so as to bring produce.

What a time during this lent for each of us to self search and see what to bury and how to do it. Most of the time we taste death when we are lonely, rejected, in sorrow, disappointed and when we fail in what we are doing, **bitterness, hatred, isolation are facilitating factors of unhappy life** because they will definitely bring **stress and depression in life** thus living unhappy and unproductive life which will too affect our spiritual way. We must avoid by all means those circumstances and moments in life though they must come our way in this valley of tears when we keep God and Christ out of our life's. We must move from the comfort zone of the earthly pleasure and bury these short time pleasure. We need a lot of **courage, sacrifice determination, self giving** if we have to succeed, yet we cannot do it on our own. We need that grace of Christ. He is giving us that encouragement since he faced these moments in temptations and more worse at the garden of Gethsemane.

We can see Jesus humanity taking the best of him, yet we see him calling on his Heavenly Father that moment, when he felt all was not well, he knew where to get strength from (Jn. 12:27-28) **"Now my soul is in distress, father save me from this hour, father glorify your name, I have glorified it and I will glorify it again"**. After this Jesus got a lot of strength to face what was awaiting him. Many great men travelled that route in our present time, people like, Mahatma Gandhi (India), Dr. Martin Luther King (US), Nelson Mandela (S. Africa) and so many others they knew where to get the strength from. like

the two Greek who were looking for Jesus,we must journey to our own Jerusalem,there we will find Jesus,recognize him and if we are quiet enough be privileged to hear the **thunderous voice of God,speaking deep within our own heart.This is all what lent is about as we come to the close of it.**