

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 25th SUNDAY YEAR -B-2024:

ENVY AND JEALOUSY EFFECTS:

Envy and jealousy are subject of television programs and in many media platforms.They have became a great part in our everyday life.Christians are not exempted from such influence from media yet they are supposed to take a stand.

Our readings today are geared towards **envy,jealousy** and the great influence they have brought in our daily life's.

Our first reading(wisdm.2:12,17-20)shows the envy of the wicked people against a good man.The godless persecuting the virtues of the just since he is **blameless has trust,faith and obeys Gods commandments**.It is a great challenge to the godless person and he tries all the tricks to test the **patience and gentleness** through condemning the virtues person to derail him and pursue his bad ambitions.Isn't this not happening on daily basis even among the Christian's and highly placed leaders in the church! Bad **competition and ambitions can be** sensed always.

The book of James(James.3:16-4:3)talks about Christian community that is **being ripped apart by envy and jealousy**.This is very damaging how many churches have been damaged by these vices all in pursue of personal ambitions at the cost of the community.He is telling us to avoid **envy,disharmony,and wickedness**.He is calling for **wisdom which brings,peace,unity, kindness and consideration** among the society.

Jesus in the gospel(Mk.9:30-37).detects certain **ambitions** from his own apostles as they urge on **who is the greatest and closer to Jesus among them**.He senses how this can be damaging and tear the group to pieces due to ambitions and jealousy.He took

the chance to teach them on **humility and desire to service**. He stated categorically that the greatest in the kingdom of God should be the servant of all with the qualities of a small child. With **simplicity, humility, obedience, innocence, purity and dependance**. What a great teaching for us with all the competitive way of life we are pursuing most of the time at the cost of others. We must practice these virtues as opposed to **bad ambitions, envy, pride, greedy, malice disputes all these will lead us away from God, they destroy our inner peace and make it difficult for us to love**. we must make a choice today which way to follow.

We should note the fact that both envy and jealousy twist our souls out of shape, they are express lanes to hell hence must be avoided. Envy blinds us to the good things in our life as we focus on what someone else jealously sees another persons success as a threat, they lead to action on how we treat and speak about others thus damaging their personality. They lead us to compare ourselves to others not to the Lord. We become so much busy looking at another individual blessings thus we miss those in our life. we feel threatened at what others are doing hence we try to eliminate them by all means. our spiritual life weakens when we forget that each has a **unique vocation and are given unique graces and role in the history of salvation**.

The greatest in the kingdom of God are those **who follow the Lord but not who follow others, those who seek to bring others close to Christ**