

Monday 6th February, 2023.

2nd Week of Lent – Cycle ‘A’

1st Reading = Daniel 9:3-10

Resp. Psalm = Ps 79:8-9,11;13

Gospel = Luke 6:36-38

Jesus teaches us the virtue of mercy through today's Gospel, with two images: that of the lenient judge and that of the one apportioning grain. God, the lenient judge, showed mercy on the accused Christian and acquitted him. The Christian should do the same: be merciful, withhold judgement and set others free from their guilt. God was also like the one who rationed grain from the harvest, pouring it into the crease of the tunic that the receiver made with his hands and arms. The one who apportioned the grain was beyond generous, even wasteful with an overflowing gift. But, if God was so generous with his mercy, shouldn't we do the same to our brothers and sisters?

We live by love and mercy, and so, we must live with others by the same love and mercy. On this, Pope Benedict XVI in 'Introduction to Christianity' reminds us very clearly: "Who would dare to assert of himself that he did not need to be tolerated by others, indeed borne up by them? And how can someone who lives on the forbearance of others himself renounce forbearing? Is it not the only gift he can offer in return, the only comfort remaining to him, that he endures just as he, too, is endured? Holiness in the Church begins with forbearance and leads to bearing up". In his work, Book of Prayer and Meditation, third Part, third treatise, Fray Luis de Granada explains an aspect of mercy when he says: "The first quality of this virtue is that it makes men like God and like the most glorious thing in Him, His mercy(Luke 6:36). For, certainly the greatest perfection a creature can have is to be like his Creator; and the more like Him he is, the more perfect he is." This is why the Gospel passage begins with the idea of making the effort to be perfect. Being merciful is also being compassionate towards others' afflictions as though they were ours and doing the best we can to remedy them. There are many who strive for high ideals and do their best but no one says anything. But the minute something goes wrong, we're ready to deal with them mercilessly, as we put it in common parlance. Someone remarked: "Perhaps once in a hundred years a person may be ruined by excessive praise, but surely once every minute someone dies inside for lack of praise." it may be good to resemble God in His mercy by pouring a good measure of mercy into the lap of others, appreciating what they do and encouraging them when they fail. This is one way of living with mercy and

a way of love. May St Colette, the Martyrs of Syria and Blessed Sylvester of Assisi intercede for us, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

A Fruitful Lenten Season.

Fr Kevin. N. Lereh, m.ss.cc

Together in prayer.