

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Homily: Fr. Shijo George

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Today's Gospel passage teaches that true happiness isn't a destination but a journey; a journey through and with Gospel values like the disciples of Jesus whom he had chosen and handpicked. It is to live out the virtuous life with a deep hope in Christ, as St. Paul says.

In the First Reading from the book of Jeremiah, the word of God instructs us about the blessings from Yahweh on anyone who follows the path of Yahweh.

*Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.*

(Jeremiah 17: 7-8)

It speaks about having a deep relationship with Yahweh. The Prophet Jeremiah also speaks about people who don't trust in Yahweh, who turn their hearts from God like a shrub in the desert. Taking these Readings to heart, let us reflect on whether we find real happiness and inner joy in Jesus and his Gospel.

The world regards wealth, power, popularity, and success as hallmarks of a happy life. Contrary to this, Jesus makes a radical shift in what it means to be truly blessed. God's standards, as Jesus reveals, are completely different from the standards set by the world. Jesus says, the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful, and the persecuted are the ones who are blessed.

Dear brothers and sisters, are we measuring happiness and success by the world's standards or by God's standards?

True blessing is not found in wealth, comfort, or popularity but in faithfulness to God and His ways. Jesus calls us to live with an eternal perspective. We may face hardships, hunger, sorrow, or persecution now, but Jesus assures us that these are only temporary. The joy and rewards of God's kingdom are eternal and are far beyond worldly happiness. The happiness that the world gives is always hollow, with a feeling of emptiness. This feeling of emptiness should be replaced by genuine, lasting happiness that radiates from within. True happiness is not found in material possessions but in a meaningful connection with God, and with our brothers and sisters through acts of kindness and living a life aligned with God's true values; while appreciating the small joys that make up everyday life.

And so, with Psalmist let us also believe and pray: "Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord."

