

CHRIST OUR HOPE CATHOLIC CHURCH

FAITH IN LAITY CORNER



Monday, February 25th, 2019

Reading-1Sam. 26:2, 7-9, 12-3, 22-3; Lk. 6:27-38

7th Sunday of Ordinary Times

Duty Bound

The 7th week of Ordinal times will lead us to see that at times we are duty bound to an action, not because of wishes on our part; but as all have to take a stand. Situations occur in our lives that are painful, degrading and at times inhumane; these may require us to stand up, speak out or just be silent and call on the mercies of God. But whatever way it may go, we are 'duty bound' to forgive the various person or persons who will cross our lives; not because we really want to; but because we have to or there will be no sleep or rest in our soul. The first reading from the book of Samuel, recalled such an incident, a once in a lifetime opportunity to destroy or have an upper hand on an enemy.

*“Three thousand of the best warriors of Israel,
went to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.” (1Sam 26:2)*

We are faced at times with a formidable challenge, David faced such. The man anointed and appointed by God to lead Israel- was Saul, a jealous enemy who hated him.

*“There was Saul lying asleep within the camp,
his spear thrust into the ground at his head.” (1Sam. 26:7)*

David has been brought face to face with a sleeping King Saul, who has ordered him killed. As he looked at his sleeping enemy, there was urged to have him killed with his own weapon.

‘David, “God has delivered your enemy into your hand today.

Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear” (1Sam. 26:8)

In God’s divine plan this was not to be his time.

‘David said, “Do not harm him, for who can lay a hand on the

LORD’s anointed and remain innocent?” (1Sam. 26:9)

David did have a choice, should he follow his friend and kill his enemy or do he obey the voice of God?

‘David declared, “only the LORD can strike him:

..... when the time comes for him to die.” (1Sam. 26:10)

We could do what the world expects of us; or be ‘*duty bound*’ to obey God, by letting it go. David showed that God’s Word makes us ‘*duty bound*.’

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

bles those who curse you” (Lk. 6:27-28)

God’s idea of what is correct is different from what we have in mind. God’s way is not about vengeance, not about revenge, but patience, demonstrating restraint and commitment to love over hate.

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Lk. 6:31)

We at times feel there is a choice, whether others should be forgiven and treated with love and respect; for all, they have done against us. There is no choice on our part, we are *duty-bound* to demonstrate love towards others.

*“Love your enemies and do good to them,
and lend expecting nothing back...” (Lk. 6:30)*

Today there is, even more, need to offset the evils in our world with selfless love. It is only with love that we can win this battle.

*“The Most High, for he himself is
kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.
Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful.” (Lk. 6:35-36)*

Let us not lose sleep on battles fought by Jesus already and the victory is already ours! We can choose to live by payback, insults, vengeance or cruelty; or we can let God take on exacting the righteous punishment on those who are wrong and we sleep restfully with our consciences clear and our hearts in God’s mercy. We are all ‘duty bound’; the choice will be ours.

IN OUR PRAYERS WE RECALL THAT OUR GOD IS FORGIVING AND
WE CAN ASK TO RECEIVE THE GRACE TO FORGIVE AND LET GO DAILY IN OUR LIVES.

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