

Sunday 14th August 2022

My dear brothers and Sister, I hope today's Message brings you wisdom and knowledge of God's love and peace.

Did you noticed that in the first reading, king Zedekiah relents and tells Ebed-Melech to set Jeremiah free. Did the King figure that since everyone was starving anyway, it made no difference where Jeremiah did his starving? Did he feel that since all was lost and everyone knew it, whatever Jeremiah said or did could not really affect the already demoralised defenders. We don't know. I think it had something to do with his recognition that Jeremiah was, indeed, a prophet, one who spoke for God. With this in mind let us shortly reflect on the message of:

Jeremiah and Jesus!!

Perhaps the king realised that those who speak for God will say what we do not wish to hear. God's word will always be treasonous to the ways of the world.

In the Gospel of today, Jesus declares himself to be like Jeremiah, a bearer of what seems to be bad news. "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!"

People in Jerusalem did not relish Jeremiah's pronouncements. Neither do we relish hearing Jesus' saying that our families and society will be torn apart by dissension. The Jerusalemites wanted independence and food. We want peace and harmony. God seems to give what we do not want, and then expects us to call it "Good News."

Do you know the answer to the question: How do you train a mule? First, you take a large plank, and hit the animal over the head to get its attention. We are mulish, too self-contented, too dense and too self-absorbed to see that what God offers us goes far beyond anything that we are willing to settle for. Jeremiah and Jesus are saying, "Never mind what you think important. It will not last. In fact, it must not last so that you can receive what will last, God's eternal Love." Sometimes, we need to feel a plank over the head to get the message.

What we think of as reality— the day to day world in which we err, harm ourselves and others, regret but do little else about pain and injustice, forget God and eternity - this so called "reality " is falsehood. True reality is found in the will of God, a will that calls for love received and shared, love that transcends time. It is a reality that we will only, it seems, turn to when we've been hit with a plank

So, Jeremiah in his day and Jesus in his (which is ours) day that our dreams shall be shattered against the reality of God's love. It will hurt. It will hurt as much as slavery or strife. But, it shall free us from the delusion that this world offers what we really need, God offers what we really need, and shall do whatever is painfully necessary to smash anything that makes us willing to settle for less.

Finally, May God continue to bless you and your families, and may the intercession of our Blessed mother Mary protect you always, Amen.

Yours Affectionately,
Father Nicholas Nwanzi.