

**September 27, 2009**

**Twenty-sixth Sunday in**

**Ordinary Time B**

Reading 1

Nm 11:25-29

The LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Taking some of the spirit that was on Moses, the LORD bestowed it on the seventy elders; and as the spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied. Now two men, one named Eldad and the other Medad, were not in the gathering but had been left in the camp. They too had been on the list, but had not gone out to the tent;

yet the spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp.

So, when a young man quickly told Moses,

"Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp, "

Joshua, son of Nun, who from his youth had been

Moses' aide, said,

"Moses, my lord, stop them."

But Moses answered him,

"Are you jealous for my sake?"

Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets!

Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!"

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14

**R. (9a) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.**

The law of the LORD is perfect,

refreshing the soul;

the decree of the LORD is trustworthy,

giving wisdom to the simple.

**R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.**

The fear of the LORD is pure,

enduring forever;

the ordinances of the LORD are true,

all of them just.

**R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.**

Though your servant is careful of them,

very diligent in keeping them,

Yet who can detect failings?

Cleanse me from my unknown faults!

**R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.**

From wanton sin especially, restrain your servant;

let it not rule over me.

Then shall I be blameless and innocent

of serious sin.

**R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.**

Reading II

Jas 5:1-6

Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries.

Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become

moth-eaten,

your gold and silver have corroded,

and that corrosion will be a testimony against you;

it will devour your flesh like a fire.

You have stored up treasure for the last days.

Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers

who harvested your fields are crying aloud;

and the cries of the harvesters

have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure;

you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter.

You have condemned;

you have murdered the righteous one;

he offers you no resistance.

Gospel

Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

At that time, John said to Jesus,

"Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name,

and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us."

Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him.

There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name

who can at the same time speak ill of me.

For whoever is not against us is for us.

Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink

because you belong to Christ,

amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin,

it would be better for him if a great millstone

were put around his neck

and he were thrown into the sea.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.

It is better for you to enter into life maimed

than with two hands to go into Gehenna,

into the unquenchable fire.

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off.

It is better for you to enter into life crippled

than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna.

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out.

Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye

than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna,

where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not

quenched."

LW 1.4: Due Friday, September 25, 2009. Answer in

complete sentences. Work must be on a separate sheet of paper and typed.

1. Read Reading II for Sunday, September 27, 2009. Now read the text box of Jas 5:1-6 in your CYB. Write a few sentences about what you think about what James is addressing in Jas 5:1-6.
2. Read the Gospel pericope for September 27, 2009. To whom is Jesus speaking in this pericope? In order to find the identity of this person, where would one first look?

3. Find the Gospel pericope for Sunday, September 27, 2009 in your CYB. I am hoping the editorial headings will help you understand this pericope a bit more. In Mk 9:38-41 the issue being addressed is "Who can be a disciple?" John and his friends want to exclude people. Jesus tells them to INCLUDE people. Read Mk 9:40. This verse is often misquoted and misused. Read the footnote for Mk 9:38-41 and tell me the meaning of Mk 9:40.
4. You may have found the Gospel pericope for Sunday, September 27, rather harsh. Jesus means business. Go back and read again from the pericope of Sunday, 9/20, pay close attention to Mk 9:37. What is the connection between Mk9:37 and Mk 9:42?
5. FYI: Mk 9:42-48 is rather symbolic. Here is what bible expert John Pilch has to say: "From the beginning to the end of the Bible, it is clear that the Hebrews viewed human beings as consisting of three interlocking zones symbolized by parts of the body. Hands and feet symbolize purposeful activity. If one's activity (hand or foot) causes one to stumble during tests of loyalty, one must put an end to such behavior.

Eyes are invariably paired with the heart in the Bible to symbolize the zone of emotion-fused thought, reflective consideration of proper courses of action. If the eye, the organ that feeds information to the heart, is unreliable in tests of loyalty, one must take serious action to halt the damage.

Interpreters incline toward giving these verses figurative rather than literal meaning. Surely Jesus did not intend to gather a band of lame and blind followers around himself. While this view has merit, one should not forget that even today in the Middle East physical punishment of this sort is still meted out to convicted criminals.

Jesus' point is that no matter how painful, any effort to insure loyalty to him in this life is far less painful than the punishment for disloyalty to be administered in the world to come."

**Now, tell me what you think and/or feel about Mk9:42-48.**

6. Now for a little research fun. In Mk 9:43,45,47 Jesus mentions Gehenna. What is Gehenna? To find out, read the footnote for Mk 9: 43,45,47. Notice that this footnote will direct you to the footnote for Mt 5:22.

### 3 Zones of the human body as understood by first century Hebrews.

1. Emotion-fused thought : eyes, heart: to know, to see, understand, think, choose, feel, look at. 21<sup>st</sup> century people, would view this "zone" as intellect, will, judgment, personality, trust etc.
2. Self-expressive speech: ears, tongue, lips, teeth, etc. Today, we refer to this "zone" as communication with others.
3. Purposeful action: hands, feet, arms, etc. We would understand this to be external activity and physical behavior.