

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®
Sunday, February 16, 2025
The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on one or more of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. It prepares readers to hear God's Word at Mass and it offers a point of reflection to consider in the days leading to Sunday. Looking to Sunday is written by Father Tom Iwanowski.
Looking to Sunday has been published for more than sixteen years.

BELIEF DETERMINES

What we believe determines our vision of life and the way we live. We see that illustrated in this Sunday's readings.

In Sunday's Gospel (Luke 6:17, 20-26), Jesus tells us that the poor will have a place in God's kingdom, the hungry will be satisfied, those weeping will laugh, and those hated because of the Son of Man will leap for joy.

But those whose lives were focused only on earthly wealth, success, pleasure, and fame will find themselves in a very different situation.

In short, Jesus tells us that in a time to come, some people will be blessed with happiness, while others will be in despair.

To believe that such an age will come, we must first believe, as Saint Paul tells us in our Second Reading (1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20), that "Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." His resurrection is the assurance of our resurrection and of a future beyond the grave.

But if we believe that "Christ has not been raised...we are the most pitiable of all." For then what Jesus says about the blessings that await the poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the persecuted is merely wishful thinking. And the woes predicted for those who live a self-centered, godless existence are only idle warnings for when we die, we fall into nothingness.

Our belief that Jesus was raised from the dead transforms our perception of death and changes our vision of life and way of living. It gives us a reason to trust in God's promises and shows us that the choices we make have eternal consequences.

Using the image found in our First Reading (Jeremiah 17:5-8), those who believe in the resurrection are "like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: it fears not the heat when it comes, its leaves stay green."

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is that stream of water that nourishes our spirit, sustains our life, and dispels the fear that comes when the heat of death draws near.

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