

20th Sunday in the Ordinary Time C-2025

Yo no care? Jesus care! I care!

Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10; Psalm 40:2,3,4,18; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53

A catchy caption was printed on the t-shirts of a particular youth group. It was written in pidgin English; it reads: "You no care? Jesus care! I care!"

Every time I look at the cross, I am reminded of how much we matter to Jesus. It was the blood of Jesus that washed away our sins. His death and resurrection have given us new life, elevating us to an honorable status as part of God's holy people. We express our gratitude for this gift through the catchy phrase that resonates with the youth. As Jesus' disciples, we all care deeply, just as Jesus cared. We care about the truth, and we care for the love of God and our neighbors.

In the Book of Jeremiah, the leaders advised the king to put Jeremiah to death for "demoralizing" the soldiers and the people. What had he done? Jeremiah was committed to the truth; he spoke out against corruption and the mistreatment of the poor, even criticizing deceitful prophets. As a result, he was thrown into a cistern and left to die. Eventually, the king changed his mind and sent someone to rescue Jeremiah, possibly influenced by the truth he had proclaimed.

In the second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, we are encouraged to live like Jesus, enduring the cross. We are reminded that we are surrounded by a "cloud of witnesses"—the saints and faithful departed—who intercede for us. This imagery likens our journey of faith to a race, with Jesus at the finish line ready to reward us. Just as an athlete removes anything that hinders performance, we must eliminate obstacles in our lives that could prevent us from achieving the eternal prize. We need to run with perseverance, as life resembles a long-distance race rather than a sprint, requiring endurance to reach the finish line with unwavering faith.

At times, we may be tempted to complain about the hardships we face as followers of Christ. The Book of Hebrews presents a thought-provoking statement: "In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood" (Heb. 12:4). In simpler terms, this means that if we haven't shed blood yet, what are we complaining about? Instead of dwelling on complaints, the Book of Hebrews encourages us to fix our eyes on Jesus, who endured the cross and is the leader who will perfect our faith.

The Gospel reading from Luke presents a challenging theme. Our Lord tells His disciples, "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing." A few verses later, Jesus adds, "Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." As followers of Jesus, we are called to loyalty—a loyalty that is essential for family unity because it is based on truth. In a world characterized by deception, the truth will always be divisive; in a society marked by a culture of death, the truth will always be disruptive; and in families struggling with sin, the truth will always disturb. While the truth can hurt, it ultimately sets us free.

Undoubtedly, the Good News of Jesus is meant to change us and transform our lives—not just to make us nice or good people, but to make saints of us and to foster holiness. By putting God first in all areas of our lives, we free ourselves from the burden of over-attachment to ourselves and our possessions. We become lean, fit, and healthy for the long race to Heaven. When we fix our eyes on Jesus and care for others, we begin to look, act, and care more like Him, the leader and perfecter of our faith.

"You no care? Jesus care! We care!"

Fr. Manny Hewe, Pastor