

## **TWELFTH SUNDAY – ORD. (A)**

### **WHAT AM I AFRAID OF IN LIFE? GOD OR MAN?**

**June 24/25, 2023**

There are many things we are afraid of, big ones and small ones. We are afraid of some people and other creatures but most of all, we fear death. Jeremiah experienced death threats and intimidations from his own people. He was sent by God to remind his people of what they were doing wrong, but they denounced him and plotted against him. Even his friends turned against him, and he became their enemy; all because they did not like his message.

But he had faith in God and hoped that his enemies would fail, and they would be put to shame. He believed that the Lord was with him and so he was not afraid. He knew that God rescues the life of the poor from the power of the wicked. He was sure that the wicked would never succeed in his plans to destroy the just one.

Like Jeremiah, when Jesus began His ministry, many Jewish leaders did not like Him because of His teachings. They planned several times to do away with Him. Knowing that His disciples would experience the same troubles, He told them not to fear anyone. He encouraged them to speak out about whatever He taught them. He told them “Not to be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather they should be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and the body in Gehenna”.

He reminded them how important they were before God and that He would always take care of them. He warned them that fear might let them deny Him and He would also deny them before His Father. That means following Jesus and proclaiming the word of God creates enemies because people are not ready to change their way of life according to what God wants. That is why many Christians have been killed, some beaten, and religious houses and churches have been touched and destroyed.

Do people fear God in our world today? Many people, including Christians are not afraid of God because some think there is no God, and even if there is God, He is not concerned about their way of life, or they have nothing to do with Him. In view of that the respect and reverence due Him is absent,

even among Christians. People mock God and ridicule those who follow Him and His teachings.

Many of us fear human beings because we are afraid of rejection, exclusion, mockery, harm, among other things. We forget that everything earthly has an end and our lives continue with the Lord. It is God who will determine where we will be according to what we do today.

Am I afraid to profess my faith in public? Am I ready to share my experiences with God with others? Many of us hide behind being considered a “bigot” or “judgmental” and thus fail to express what we believe to others. What Jesus told His disciples is a piece of advice to you and me today, that “What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops”. Many of us have no time to read the Scriptures, reflect on them and share them with others.

We have been subdued by those who believe in all kinds of things and hold on to various ideologies contrary to the teachings of Christ. We are tempted to think that what we believe in and profess is wrong, obsolete and outmoded. Jesus kept alerting His disciples what awaited them in the world: “In the world you will have hardship but be courageous; I have conquered the world” (Jn.16:33b).

If I believe that one day I will stand before the judgment seat of God, then I have to fear God, show reverence and do what is right. I should live my Christian life without being afraid of human beings.

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If I believe that one day I will stand before the judgment seat of God, then I have to fear God, show reverence and do what is right. I should live my Christian life without being afraid of human beings.

## **TWELFTH SUNDAY – ORD. (A)**

### **WHAT AM I AFRAID OF IN LIFE? GOD OR MAN?**

**June 24/25, 2023**

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But he had faith in God and hoped that his enemies would fail, and they would be put to shame. He believed that the Lord was with him and so he was not afraid. He knew that God rescues the life of the poor from the power of the wicked. He was sure that the wicked would never succeed in his plans to destroy the just one.

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Do people fear God in our world today? Many people, including Christians are not afraid of God because some think there is no God, and even if there is God, He is not concerned about their way of life, or they have nothing to do with Him. In view of that the respect and reverence due Him is absent,

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Many of us fear human beings because we are afraid of rejection, exclusion, mockery, harm, among other things. We forget that everything earthly has an end and our lives continue with the Lord. It is God who will determine where we will be according to what we do today.

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If I believe that one day I will stand before the judgment seat of God, then I have to fear God, show reverence and do what is right. I should live my Christian life without being afraid of human beings.

## **TWELFTH SUNDAY – ORD. (A)**

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But he had faith in God and hoped that his enemies would fail, and they would be put to shame. He believed that the Lord was with him and so he was not afraid. He knew that God rescues the life of the poor from the power of the wicked. He was sure that the wicked would never succeed in his plans to destroy the just one.

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There are many things we are afraid of, big ones and small ones. We are afraid of some people and other creatures but most of all, we fear death. Jeremiah experienced death threats and intimidations from his own people. He was sent by God to remind his people of what they were doing wrong, but they denounced him and plotted against him. Even his friends turned against him, and he became their enemy; all because they did not like his message.

But he had faith in God and hoped that his enemies would fail, and they would be put to shame. He believed that the Lord was with him and so he was not afraid. He knew that God rescues the life of the poor from the power of the wicked. He was sure that the wicked would never succeed in his plans to destroy the just one.

Like Jeremiah, when Jesus began His ministry, many Jewish leaders did not like Him because of His teachings. They planned several times to do away with Him. Knowing that His disciples would experience the same troubles, He told them not to fear anyone. He encouraged them to speak out about whatever He taught them. He told them “Not to be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather they should be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and the body in Gehenna”.

He reminded them how important they were before God and that He would always take care of them. He warned them that fear might let them deny Him and He would also deny them before His Father. That means following Jesus and proclaiming the word of God creates enemies because people are not ready to change their way of life according to what God wants. That is why many Christians have been killed, some beaten, and religious houses and churches have been touched and destroyed.

Do people fear God in our world today? Many people, including Christians are not afraid of God because some think there is no God, and even if there is God, He is not concerned about their way of life, or they have nothing to do with Him. In view of that the respect and reverence due Him is absent,

even among Christians. People mock God and ridicule those who follow Him and His teachings.

Many of us fear human beings because we are afraid of rejection, exclusion, mockery, harm, among other things. We forget that everything earthly has an end and our lives continue with the Lord. It is God who will determine where we will be according to what we do today.

Am I afraid to profess my faith in public? Am I ready to share my experiences with God with others? Many of us hide behind being considered a “bigot” or “judgmental” and thus fail to express what we believe to others. What Jesus told His disciples is a piece of advice to you and me today, that “What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops”. Many of us have no time to read the Scriptures, reflect on them and share them with others.

We have been subdued by those who believe in all kinds of things and hold on to various ideologies contrary to the teachings of Christ. We are tempted to think that what we believe in and profess is wrong, obsolete and outmoded. Jesus kept alerting His disciples what awaited them in the world: “In the world you will have hardship but be courageous; I have conquered the world” (Jn.16:33b).

If I believe that one day I will stand before the judgment seat of God, then I have to fear God, show reverence and do what is right. I should live my Christian life without being afraid of human beings.

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If I believe that one day I will stand before the judgment seat of God, then I have to fear God, show reverence and do what is right. I should live my Christian life without being afraid of human beings.

## **TWELFTH SUNDAY – ORD. (A)**

### **WHAT AM I AFRAID OF IN LIFE? GOD OR MAN?**

**June 24/25, 2023**

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But he had faith in God and hoped that his enemies would fail, and they would be put to shame. He believed that the Lord was with him and so he was not afraid. He knew that God rescues the life of the poor from the power of the wicked. He was sure that the wicked would never succeed in his plans to destroy the just one.

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Do people fear God in our world today? Many people, including Christians are not afraid of God because some think there is no God, and even if there is God, He is not concerned about their way of life, or they have nothing to do with Him. In view of that the respect and reverence due Him is absent,

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Many of us fear human beings because we are afraid of rejection, exclusion, mockery, harm, among other things. We forget that everything earthly has an end and our lives continue with the Lord. It is God who will determine where we will be according to what we do today.

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If I believe that one day I will stand before the judgment seat of God, then I have to fear God, show reverence and do what is right. I should live my Christian life without being afraid of human beings.

## **TWELFTH SUNDAY – ORD. (A)**

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But he had faith in God and hoped that his enemies would fail, and they would be put to shame. He believed that the Lord was with him and so he was not afraid. He knew that God rescues the life of the poor from the power of the wicked. He was sure that the wicked would never succeed in his plans to destroy the just one.

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There are many things we are afraid of, big ones and small ones. We are afraid of some people and other creatures but most of all, we fear death. Jeremiah experienced death threats and intimidations from his own people. He was sent by God to remind his people of what they were doing wrong, but they denounced him and plotted against him. Even his friends turned against him, and he became their enemy; all because they did not like his message.

But he had faith in God and hoped that his enemies would fail, and they would be put to shame. He believed that the Lord was with him and so he was not afraid. He knew that God rescues the life of the poor from the power of the wicked. He was sure that the wicked would never succeed in his plans to destroy the just one.

Like Jeremiah, when Jesus began His ministry, many Jewish leaders did not like Him because of His teachings. They planned several times to do away with Him. Knowing that His disciples would experience the same troubles, He told them not to fear anyone. He encouraged them to speak out about whatever He taught them. He told them “Not to be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather they should be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and the body in Gehenna”.

He reminded them how important they were before God and that He would always take care of them. He warned them that fear might let them deny Him and He would also deny them before His Father. That means following Jesus and proclaiming the word of God creates enemies because people are not ready to change their way of life according to what God wants. That is why many Christians have been killed, some beaten, and religious houses and churches have been touched and destroyed.

Do people fear God in our world today? Many people, including Christians are not afraid of God because some think there is no God, and even if there is God, He is not concerned about their way of life, or they have nothing to do with Him. In view of that the respect and reverence due Him is absent,

even among Christians. People mock God and ridicule those who follow Him and His teachings.

Many of us fear human beings because we are afraid of rejection, exclusion, mockery, harm, among other things. We forget that everything earthly has an end and our lives continue with the Lord. It is God who will determine where we will be according to what we do today.

Am I afraid to profess my faith in public? Am I ready to share my experiences with God with others? Many of us hide behind being considered a “bigot” or “judgmental” and thus fail to express what we believe to others. What Jesus told His disciples is a piece of advice to you and me today, that “What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops”. Many of us have no time to read the Scriptures, reflect on them and share them with others.

We have been subdued by those who believe in all kinds of things and hold on to various ideologies contrary to the teachings of Christ. We are tempted to think that what we believe in and profess is wrong, obsolete and outmoded. Jesus kept alerting His disciples what awaited them in the world: “In the world you will have hardship but be courageous; I have conquered the world” (Jn.16:33b).

If I believe that one day I will stand before the judgment seat of God, then I have to fear God, show reverence and do what is right. I should live my Christian life without being afraid of human beings.

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If I believe that one day I will stand before the judgment seat of God, then I have to fear God, show reverence and do what is right. I should live my Christian life without being afraid of human beings.

## **TWELFTH SUNDAY – ORD. (A)**

### **WHAT AM I AFRAID OF IN LIFE? GOD OR MAN?**

**June 24/25, 2023**

There are many things we are afraid of, big ones and small ones. We are afraid of some people and other creatures but most of all, we fear death. Jeremiah experienced death threats and intimidations from his own people. He was sent by God to remind his people of what they were doing wrong, but they denounced him and plotted against him. Even his friends turned against him, and he became their enemy; all because they did not like his message.

But he had faith in God and hoped that his enemies would fail, and they would be put to shame. He believed that the Lord was with him and so he was not afraid. He knew that God rescues the life of the poor from the power of the wicked. He was sure that the wicked would never succeed in his plans to destroy the just one.

Like Jeremiah, when Jesus began His ministry, many Jewish leaders did not like Him because of His teachings. They planned several times to do away with Him. Knowing that His disciples would experience the same troubles, He told them not to fear anyone. He encouraged them to speak out about whatever He taught them. He told them “Not to be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather they should be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and the body in Gehenna”.

He reminded them how important they were before God and that He would always take care of them. He warned them that fear might let them deny Him and He would also deny them before His Father. That means following Jesus and proclaiming the word of God creates enemies because people are not ready to change their way of life according to what God wants. That is why many Christians have been killed, some beaten, and religious houses and churches have been touched and destroyed.

Do people fear God in our world today? Many people, including Christians are not afraid of God because some think there is no God, and even if there is God, He is not concerned about their way of life, or they have nothing to do with Him. In view of that the respect and reverence due Him is absent,

even among Christians. People mock God and ridicule those who follow Him and His teachings.

Many of us fear human beings because we are afraid of rejection, exclusion, mockery, harm, among other things. We forget that everything earthly has an end and our lives continue with the Lord. It is God who will determine where we will be according to what we do today.

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