

# Trinity News

October 3, 2010

## Pentecost 19 Luke 17:5-10

**F**orgiving someone “seventy times seven” stretches credibility, but Luke’s reporting of it tells of his fascination with Jesus’ insistence on forgiveness. The apostles think that it requires an increase in faith to put it into practice: “The Apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’” (17:5). The specific use of “apostles” to describe the disciples here “suggests that Luke is consciously writing from the perspective of the church and the concerns within its life”. Lieu observes that Luke rarely uses the term “apostle” in this gospel. When he does use it, then we may assert that the description has significance.

Jesus answered the apostles, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘be uprooted and planted in the sea’, and it will obey you” (17:6). This is one of those sayings of Jesus that calls for extreme trust. In fact “extreme trust” is a description of what he means by faith. Planting a mulberry tree in the sea may seem a more daunting task than uprooting it and hurling it into the sea! Rather than getting tangled in the details, it is better to see these examples as a demonstration of the immense trust that Jesus placed in the power of faith to change human lives. The details are not unimportant, and indeed they are details embedded in the Scripture. But the incredible power of faith as taught in part by them supersedes any details.

The teaching of Jesus about faith at times gives space for indecision, a pause for reflection, but here it calls for absolute trust. If this kind of faith is only as small as a mustard seed and yet has great power, what can faith do when someone accepts Jesus’ call to test the boundaries of absolute trust?

Luke 17:7-10 uses the model of a servant and the generosity of the master to demonstrate a fresh interchange of relationships within the reign of God. Jesus finishes it by telling the disciples in explicit terms that the reign of God has no place for favourites, no court of privilege and honour. “So you also, when you have done everything you are told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty’” (17:10). The reign of God is the context of everything that Jesus teaches. The love of God and the love of neighbour are the charter of the kingdom, its first and last entries, the bracket of everything that life-conduct within the reign of God requires, Jesus diligently pursued the due recognition of those who were excluded from society. Those who deliberately denied any such recognition to others, and indeed delighted in ensuring that people were kept in their place, came in for harsh censure from Jesus. He was relentless in his teaching that we are responsible for our own thoughts words and deeds. This may have been modelled in part on the prophetic Triad. That is, an inner integrity connected to words/pronouncements and to the symbols and deeds of our life. Jesus was particularly severe on those who led other people astray, especially those on the margins of life who were powerless to articulate properly their own needs for dignity, self-worth and adequate sustenance. The term “little ones” can be applied to the countless numbers of people who suffer from indignities and the constant worry of merely surviving. Being a Christian is a call to an open-ended compassion that has no boundaries. Uncomfortable, but true.

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

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## TO PLAN:

### October 3, TODAY.

- Confirmation class at the Rector's office, after the 9:30 service.

### October 5, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Bible Study, #3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village, 7:15pm.

### October 7, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

### Next Week's Readings:

Ruth 1:8-19a

Psalm 113

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Cena Quiapos, Benjie Gonzales, Ron Jacob, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Ema Duhaylongsod, Loy Solasco, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Carrie Angus, Augusto Natividad, Avelina Collado, Eric Williamson, Susan Dalmas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Richard Kendall, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Johnny Manning Jr, Sunny Cabanang, Valerie Jones, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Emilie Nauntofte, Marian Kermanshahchi, Rosaline Soulsby, Fr. Barry Cumberland, Divinagracia Benitez, Albert Chakas, Cery Abad.

	<b>Last Sunday</b>	<b>Year-to- date</b>	<b>Proportionate Budget</b>	<b>2010 Budget</b>
<b>Pledge</b>	P50,350.00	P2,846,058.48	P2,925,000.00	P3,900,000.00
<b>Loose Plate</b>	P12,995.00	P658,855.73	P705,000.00	P940,000.00

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