

Hebrew Bible: A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 17:5-10

God says:

“Cursed are those who trust in human ways,
who rely on things of the flesh,
whose hearts turn away from God.

They are like stunted vegetation in the desert
with no hope in the future.

It stands in stony wastes in the desert,
an uninhabited land of salt.

Blessed are those who put their trust in God,
with God for their hope.

They are like a tree planted by the river
that thrusts its roots toward the stream.

When the heat comes it feels no heat;
its leaves stay green.
It is untroubled in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.

The human heart is more deceitful than
than anything else,
and desperately sick—who can understand it?

I, God, search into the heart, I probe the mind,
to give to each person
what their actions and conduct deserve.

Pause

For words of insight in our ancient traditions of faith.

We give thanks.

Gospel: A reading from the Gospel of Luke 6:17-26

Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon — people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all.

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:

“You who are poor are blessed,
for the reign of God is yours.

You who hunger now are blessed,
for you’ll be filled.

You who weep now are blessed,
for you’ll laugh.

You are blessed when people hate you,
when they scorn and insult you
and spurn your name as evil
because of the Chosen One.

On the day they do so,
rejoice and be glad:
your reward will be great in heaven,
for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.

But woe to you rich,
for you are now receiving your comfort in full.

Woe to you who are full,
for you'll go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you'll weep in your grief.

Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for their ancestors treated the false prophets
in the same way."

Pause

For words of life and inspiration in scripture.

We give thanks.