

February 13, 2022

Epiphany 6

Deep Roots

Rev. Lori McPherson, Preaching

First Reading ~ Jeremiah 17:5-8

YHWH says:

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

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."

Second Reading ~ 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.