**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAR. 1-2, 2025**

Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Gospel Reading**

Lk 6:39-45

And he told them a parable, “Can a blind person guide a blind

person? Will not both fall into a pit?

No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained,

every disciple will be like his teacher.

Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not

perceive the wooden beam in your own?

How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove that

splinter in your eye,’ when you do not even notice the wooden

beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden

beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the

splinter in your brother’s eye.

“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree

bear good fruit.

For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick

figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from

brambles.

A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart

produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil

produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth

speaks.”

**Intercession**

We pray for the success of the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal, whose programs bring the love and mercy of Christ to those in need.

**Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

We must deal with our own sins before we can help others “blinded” by sin to see God. Jesus repeatedly reminds us throughout the Gospels to focus our attention on improving our imperfect selves – “[r]emove the wooden beam from your eye first” – before calling out the faults of others ­– “remove the splinter in your brother’s eye” (Luke 6: 40). Recall the woman caught in adultery. She is about to be stoned to death for her sins, but our merciful Lord disperses the crowd with a simple but powerful challenge: “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her” (John 8:7).

The perfect but false front we put forth in the world is no match for God, who knows us intimately. We can’t fake it with God. We can’t hide our innermost thoughts and feelings, our true selves. This may seem intimidating, being laid bare before our Lord, but it is nothing short of miraculous that God loves us, unconditionally, despite the “wooden beams” in our eyes and our judgement of others with “splinters” in their eyes.

Jesus teaches us that being His follower does not give us license to judge others. Rather, it provides an opportunity to show mercy toward ourselves and our own sinfulness and to others in their human frailty. And a way to act on this mercy is to support such initiatives as the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal, which brings God’s light and love to people in our community who need it most.

**Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

We’ve all heard the saying, “You reap what you sow.” Jesus tells His disciples a version of this in today’s Gospel in the parable about the good tree and rotten tree. A tree produces according to its nature: “[f]or people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles” (Luke 6: 44). Likewise, our words reveal our hearts. If we are harsh, bitter, biting, judgmental (brambles), then our hearts are not right with God. We need to get right with God by extending kindness, love, and mercy to both ourselves and others. Only then will we bear fruit (figs). “A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil” (Luke 6: 45). How you treat others comes back to you.

There are so many ways we can “produce good,” as Jesus instructs, one of which is supporting initiatives that bring Christ’s Good News to those who need it most. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal.

**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: A person offering service to another.

Header: “A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good” – Luke 6:45

Copy: Set out to do one good thing, no matter how small, today! Please support the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal, which brings the goodness of Christ to others.