

Tuesday, 20th Week in Ordinary Time – Year II (2026)

When most people hear the word “oracle,” they imagine a baseball stadium in San Francisco. Apart from that, we do not talk about oracles very much. To many, *oracle* is a “religious” word, one used by those interested in religion.

What is an oracle? At first glance, it appears that an “oracle” is a message— a Divine revelation concerning this or that. While that is not wrong, it is a bit too simplistic. In the Bible the *oracle* is not the message; the oracle is a *place* where a message is spoken.

In today’s Old Testament reading, the prophet Ezekiel directs an oracle in the ancient coastal city of Tyre. Its fleet of ships traded with the ancient world, making it a place of wealth and luxury— where copious amounts of gold and silver are stored in the city’s treasuries.

However, instead of being grateful for all the benefits provided by his good fortune, the prince of Tyre has grown arrogant, so much so that he even regards himself as an equal of the gods. Such pride, Ezekiel warns, will be his downfall.

The prince even boasts of having a wisdom greater than Daniel’s, but this, Ezekiel warns, is an illusion. Daniel, so unlike Tyre’s prince, understood that his wisdom was a gift from God.

The prince goes even further— predicting a day when he will be seated on a lofty throne in the heart of the sea; however, Ezekiel prophesies, in our closing verses, that the prince will instead lie dead in the heart of the sea— the one who claimed to be divine is proven to be a mere mortal.

Why, many have asked, is being blessed with good fortune such a problem? Perhaps, it is because the more we have, the more we want. We need resources and energy to protect our wealth as justification of a belief that we “deserve” to have many things.

The Gospel, however, reminds us that we must use wisely all that we have been given as good stewards of God’s gifts to us. As disciples we are obliged to share what we have. As followers of Christ, we must respond to the needs of all our sisters and brothers.

Those who have the greatest need require the greatest response. No wonder so many cover their ears and pretend not to hear!