

Stewardship Reflection on the Lectionary Readings

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IS 56: 1, 6-7; PS 67: 2-3, 5-6, 8; ROM 11: 13-15, 29-32; MT 15: 21-28



There is much in today's readings referring to Gentiles. The term Gentile is one with which most of us are familiar. It is an English translation of the Hebrew word *goyim* ("people, nations") and the Greek word *ethne* ("nations, people groups, people"). The Latin Vulgate translated these words as *gentilis*, and this word was then carried over into English as

"Gentile." Basically, the term refers to a person who is not a Jew. Almost all of us, probably all of us, are Gentiles.

From the Jewish perspective, Gentiles were often seen as pagans who did not know the true God. During Jesus' time, many Jews took such pride in their cultural and religious heritage that they considered Gentiles "unclean," calling them "dogs." Gentiles and the half-Gentile Samaritans were viewed as enemies to be shunned.

Jesus brought something unique and new to the Church — the idea that it was open to all, that He offered salvation to all people everywhere.

As a prophet Isaiah, although he lived six centuries before the birth of Christ, anticipated and predicted much of what occurred and what we know about Jesus the Savior and Messiah. Isaiah makes it quite clear that all belong to Christ. He calls on us to accept the promise received from God. Simply put, at least according to Isaiah, if God says you belong, you belong.

Isaiah states in today's First Reading, "...for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Jesus understood this so well and practiced it and communicated it. Most of us recall Jesus driving out the money changers from the temple. However, He did not expel them from the temple itself because that is not where He found them. Gentiles were forbidden from entering the temple, and they would gather on the outer courts to pray. This is where Jesus found the money changers. You might say He was doubly upset; part of His concern was also the fact the Gentiles were not allowed to enter the temple, thus in part creating the situation.

St. Paul viewed himself as the apostle to the Gentiles, and the Second Reading from his letter to the Romans reflects that. Paul states straight out that he is speaking to the Gentiles, and his perspective that he is the apostle to the Gentiles. Paul is fond of comparing the Gentiles to the people of Israel who were offered the Kingdom first in some ways. There is some political content in this particular reading, as Paul is responding to the fact that the Jews in large part rejected the Messiah and His Saving Grace, but the Gentiles, people like us, seemed to accept and embrace it more readily.

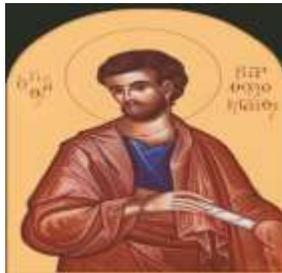
The Gospel from St. Matthew speaks of Jesus ministering to a Gentile woman. You may be aware that our readings for Sunday Mass are on a

three year cycle, labeled A, B, and C. This year in the Church is an A year, thus most of the Gospel readings come from Matthew (Year B is the Gospel of Mark and chapter 6 from John; Year C we read the Gospel of Luke). That is why our readings in recent weeks and in the near future are from Matthew.

The Region of Tyre and Sidon where today's Gospel occurs, was many miles north of Bethlehem, about as far north as Jesus ever traveled. They were part of what was known as Canaan, which today would be in Lebanon. A woman of that area, a Canaanite and a Gentile, approaches Jesus for help and mercy. What Jesus does and how He responds to her is indicative of His feelings toward and His approach to Gentiles. She appeals to Him for mercy with the most basic prayer we can offer in some ways, "Lord, help me." A key part of our faith and an important aspect of stewardship is coming to the conclusion that we need Jesus' help in many ways. This woman knows that and turns completely to the Lord.

Of course, His response is simple: "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." That is a challenge to us relating to our own faith. Is our faith in fact in God or do we rely on other things to make us feel confident? We are called as Disciples of Christ to put our total faith in the Lord. That is the combined message of today's readings — we are Gentiles, and it is only through the Lord that we can be saved, and we will be saved.

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW



The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke and the Acts of the Apostles count Bartholomew as one of the 12 apostles, associating his name with Philip. John's Gospel links the name of Nathaniel with Philip and never mentions Bartholomew. Apart from that, we know little about him.

Some scholars identify the apostle Bartholomew with Nathaniel, a solution supported by the fact that Bartholomew could be a surname ('bar Tolomai,' son of Tolomai) and Nathaniel a given name: Nathaniel Bartholomew. If so, then Nathaniel was the man in whom the Lord saw 'no guile and one who was among the apostles when the risen Lord appeared by the Sea of Galilee.

What is certain is that Bartholomew left everything to follow Jesus, becoming his disciple, friend and an apostle entrusted with the continuation of his mission. (Living with Christ, August 2017)

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS



The **REGISTRATION Forms** for September **ARE AVAILABLE! ALL children** of the Parish **must be registered in the faith transmission and education program, Be My Disciples.** Do you have children between the ages of Kindergarten and Junior High? Please enquire at the office or call Connie Kuhr for information – 514-747-9347.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
August 19th – 27th, 2017

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	August 19th	Sunday Vigil Louis Ottoni – RIP – by Johnny, Mary and family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	August 20th	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Philomena Leekam – Blessings – by her sisters Bruna Alesi – RIP – by the family
Monday	August 21st	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	August 22nd	Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Florence Gadwah – RIP – by Janet Prasad
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	August 23rd	Saint Rose of Lima Richard Isa – RIP – by his daughter Leila and family
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	August 24th	SAINT BARTHOLOMEW Noreen Bolohan – RIP – by Joan
Friday 9:00 a.m.	August 25th	Saint Louis Adrian de Souza – RIP – by the family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	August 26th	Sunday Vigil Louis Ottoni – RIP – by Pina Agnessi
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	August 27th	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Martin Leekam – Blessings – by the family John Birinyi – RIP – by Barbara

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

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