

## FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 3.13.24 (for 3.17.24)

### FIRST READING: Exodus 22:21-27

<sup>21</sup>“You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. <sup>22</sup>You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. <sup>23</sup>If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry <sup>24</sup>and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless. <sup>25</sup>“If you lend

money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him. <sup>26</sup>If ever you take your neighbor's cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, <sup>27</sup>for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.

- 1) In these words, God mentions specific classes of people He pays attention to. Who are they? Why does God notice them so closely?
- 2) How does God call us to act towards people in these positions?
- 3) God also takes this very seriously. What are ways today that we can take this seriously?

### Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-10

<sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup>But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into

many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

- 1) What is contentment? How has it brought gain to your life?
- 2) In what ways do we see the desire to be rich still affecting people in our world?
- 3) How can we live knowing we need finances but that finances do not need to control or drive our lives?

## **GOSPEL: Luke 12:15, 22-34**

<sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

<sup>22</sup>And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in

all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup>For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. <sup>32</sup>"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

- 1) Jesus provides guidance for us about "the good life." Where does He point us when we feel the constant pressure to buy?
- 2) Greed is one of the ways "hurry" creeps into our lives, demanding that we seek more and that enough is never enough. How does Jesus teach and model a way of life that resists greed (and hurry)?
- 3) How do Jesus' words point us to living in God's Kingdom instead of this world's?