

Proper 21 (conflated with Michaelmas)

Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

El eazar God is my help restoration to life
Eizabeth Elisheva promise
Daniel judgment
Elisha salvation
Elijah strength
ishmael named by God
Israel struggles
Nathaniel gift
Samuel name
Emmanuel

Angels

Amos 6: 1, 4-7 Amos warns the wealthy about their selfishness.

1 Timothy 6: 11-16 Paul gives Timothy tips on being a disciple of the Lord Jesus.

Luke 16: 19-31 A reminder that wealth can insulate us from seeing the needs of others.

Different Lazaruses. Rich man in Hades. did not really listen to the message of the prophets. Abraham says that the five brothers will not be able to change their way of life if they do not do so through listening to God's word.

If when we listen to today's gospel about Lazarus and the rich man, we tend to identify with Lazarus, we miss the whole point of the story. We, collectively, are the rich man. In Europe we have a mountain of beef, a mountain of cereals, a mountain of butter, a lake of wine and a lake of milk, that cost us a fortune to maintain. These are only the crumbs that fall from our table. Amos' warning is aimed directly at us: "Woe to those ensconced snugly in Zion." The problem about being collectively responsible for the world's starving masses is that we can so easily shrug off our personal responsibility. You may be living in a bed-sitter with few comforts

or struggling to meet the mortgage repayments on your home. Yet all the services we benefit from, our public transport system, our education, our health services etc. derive from the rich man's club to which we belong. We dine at the rich man's table.

Falseness of ethereal devotions that stress the extraordinary but ignore the social implications of the real gospel. The circumstances of each community will be important in how this gospel of justice in faith is to be preached.

Advertising for dog-food and cat-food gives an indication of how dramatically our pets' eating habits have changed. With what we spend on them, we could feed all of the poor people who are dying of starvation.

Much of our wealth derives from the natural resources our forefathers looted from the World. And now, adding insult to injury, our ships are plying the seas in search of a Third World country willing to accept our toxic waste.

If we are beginning to wake up to the danger it not because our conscience!

Our revelry is coming home to roost. In that memorable phrase of Amos, "the revelry of the loungers shall pass away." Our world is too small to bear this. We will all end up in a hell of our own creation. Maybe we need to.

Here we are again in today's readings being reminded that one day we will die. The psalm is clear: our dreams crumble at that moment, if they haven't already.

How do you live your life NOW?

Moment by moment

No longer say I will, but I expect to.

In Sh'allah, DV, if the Lord does not prevent it

Called to be angels