

FEBRUARY 10-16

MONDAY **2/10**

ISAIAH 10:1-4

God speaks through Isaiah to condemn those who enact unjust laws, oppress the poor, and exploit the vulnerable. He warns that a day of reckoning will come, and those who rely on their wealth and power will find no refuge from His judgment. This passage reminds us that God is deeply concerned with justice and calls His people to care for the afflicted. Jesus, in His ministry, consistently stood against the religious and political elite who mistreated others while extending mercy to the outcasts and the poor. As followers of Christ, we are called to uphold justice, defend the helpless, and not become complacent in our own comfort.

1. Where do you see injustice in the world today and what can (do) you do about it?

2. Why do you think God repeatedly, through the Old and New Testament, calls us to care for the vulnerable and the powerless?

REVELATION 3:14-22

Revelation begins with seven letters to seven churches in Asia Minor in which Jesus outlines commendations and complaints about the churches. These seven letters to seven churches continue to speak to us today as we can often see our own church, for good and bad, in these words of Jesus. Here, Jesus rebukes the church in Laodicea for being lukewarm—neither hot nor cold. They considered themselves rich and self-sufficient, yet Jesus declares that they are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. This warning is for all who grow complacent in their faith, relying on their own success rather than on Christ. Jesus calls us to recognize our need for Him, to repent of self-satisfaction, and to seek true riches in His grace. Yet, in His rebuke, there is also an invitation: He stands at the door and knocks, waiting for us to open our lives fully to Him. Jesus afflicts the comfortable not out of cruelty, but out of love—so that they might truly know Him.

- 1. What does it mean to you to be "lukewarm" in faith and how can you guard against spiritual complacency?
- 2. How have you experienced opeing the door to allow Christ to come into your life?

WEDNESDAY 2/12

MATTHEW 23:1-12

Jesus turns worldly ideas of greatness upside down, teaching that true greatness is found in servanthood. The religious leaders of His day sought status and honor, but Jesus calls His followers to humility. He warns that those who exalt themselves will be humbled, while those who humble themselves will be exalted. This is the heart of His ministry—comforting the afflicted while challenging those who seek comfort in status and power. When we embrace humility and serve others, we reflect the heart of Christ and experience the true joy of His kingdom.

- 1. How does Jesus challenge our ideas of success and greatness?
- 2. Can you think of a time in your life when God humbled you in a way that led to spiritual growth?

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

Paul calls believers to a life of humility, following the example of Jesus, who willingly laid aside His divine privileges to take on human form and suffer for our sake. Jesus, though fully God, humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross (set aside His "god-ness"), demonstrating true servanthearted love. This passage reminds us that Christian living is not about seeking power, comfort, or recognition, but about lowering ourselves in service to others. Jesus afflicts the proud by calling them to humility and comforts the humble by showing that their service is seen and honored by God.

- 1. What does it mean in your daily life to "value others above yourself" how do you live it out?
- 2. How does true humility lead to personal transformation and deeper faith, as well as more connected relationships with others?

FRIDAY 2/14

PSALM 9

This psalm declares that God reigns forever, executing justice for the oppressed and being a refuge for those in distress. The Lord does not forget the cries of the afflicted, and He promises that the needy will not be abandoned. This passage is a comfort to those who feel unseen, unheard, or mistreated. At the same time, it is a warning to those who live in selfish comfort, ignoring the suffering of others. Jesus embodies this truth, lifting up the downtrodden and confronting those who refuse to act with compassion.

- 1. What is your understanding and experience with God's justice and mercy in your life and in this world?
- 2. What does it mean to you that God does not forget the cries of the afflicted?

SATURDAY/ SUNDAY 2/15-16

LUKE 6:17-26

Jesus speaks blessings over the poor, the hungry, and those who weep, promising that their suffering will be redeemed. However, He also pronounces woes on the rich, the full, and those who seek approval from others. Jesus' words challenge our natural assumptions—He comforts those in distress, while warning those who find security in worldly success. The kingdom of God operates by different values, calling us to seek eternal treasure rather than temporary ease.

- 1. How does the Church embody Jesus' words of blessings on the poor and woes on the rich? How have we failed to do so?
- 2. How do you use what you have money, time, influence to bless those who are in need?

Verse for the week:

"Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God."

(Proverbs 14:31)

SERMON NOTES