

The first lesson is taken from the book of the prophet Jeremiah, chapter 22.

Thus says the LORD:

Go down to the house of the king of Judah,
and speak there this word,

and say: Hear the word of the LORD,

O King of Judah sitting on the throne of David;
you, and your servants, and your people who enter these gates.

Thus says the LORD:

Act with justice and righteousness,

and deliver, from the hand of the oppressor, anyone who has been robbed.

And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow,
or shed innocent blood in this place.

For, if you will indeed obey this word,

then through the gates of this house
shall enter kings who sit on the throne of David,

riding in chariots and on horses,

they, and their servants, and their people.

But if you will not heed these words,

I swear by myself, says the LORD,
that this house shall become a desolation.

For thus says the LORD
concerning the house of the king of Judah:

You are like Gilead to me,

like the summit of Lebanon;

but I swear that I will make you a desert,
an uninhabited city.

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FIRST READING

Jeremiah 22.1-9,13-17

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I will prepare destroyers against you,
all with their weapons;

they shall cut down your choicest cedars and cast them into the fire.

And many nations will pass by this city,

and all of them will say one to another,

"Why has the LORD dealt in this way with that great city?"

And they will answer,

"Because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD their God,
and worshipped other gods and served them."

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness,
and his upper rooms by injustice;

who makes his neighbours work for nothing,
and does not give them their wages;

who says,

"I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms,"

and who cuts out windows for it,

panelling it with cedar, and painting it with vermilion.

Are you a king because you compete in cedar?

Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness?

Then it was well with him.

He judged the cause of the poor and needy;

then it was well.

Is not this to know me? says the LORD.

But your eyes and heart are only on your dishonest gain,

for shedding innocent blood,

and for practising oppression and violence.

Here endeth the first lesson.

SECOND READING Luke 14.27-33

The 2nd. lesson is taken from the Gospel according to Luke.

Whoever does not carry the cross
and follow me

cannot be my disciple.

For which of you,

intending to build a tower,

does not first sit down and estimate the cost,
to see whether he has enough to complete it?

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation
(and is not able to finish)

all who see it will begin to ridicule him,

saying, 'This fellow began to build
and was not able to finish.'

Or what king,

going out to wage war against another king,

will not sit down first

and consider whether he is able

(with ten thousand)

to oppose the one who comes against him
with twenty thousand?

If he cannot,

then, while the other is still far away,

he sends a delegation

and asks for the terms of peace.

So therefore,

none of you can become my disciple

if you do not give up all your possessions.

Here endeth the second lesson.