

RCIA: INQUIRY SESSION FOUR

THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

Week: 24/10/22 – 30/10/22

1. Old Testament:

- The Old Testament contains 46 books. It tells the story of God's people before Jesus was born.
- There are four sections in the Old Testament: The Pentateuch, The Historical Books, The Wisdom Books and The Books of the Prophets.
- In the five books of the Pentateuch, we find the story of Creation and of Adam and Eve. We also find stories about Noah, Abraham, and Moses.
- In the Historical Books we find stories about famous people who lived before the time of Jesus, such as Ruth, David, Saul, and Samuel.
- The Wisdom Books contain psalms and instructions about how to live our lives and how to worship God.
- In the Books of the Prophets, we find the teachings of the prophets and the promise from God that he would send a saviour.

2. New Testament:

- The New Testament contains 27 books. It tells about Jesus' life on earth and about his followers.
- There are four sections in the New Testament: The Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles, and the Book of Revelation.
- The four Gospels contain a record of the life, teaching, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.
- The Acts of the Apostles describes how the salvation promised in the Old Testament and accomplished by Jesus has now under the guidance of the Holy Spirit been extended to the Gentiles.
- The Epistles is the name commonly given to the twenty-one letters to be found in the New Testament. An epistle is a treatise or essay intended for public reading.
- The Book of Revelation is an apocalyptic book in which the author declares to have received a revelation of the future and of history in the light of the Christ event.

3. **Gospel Reflection:** Sunday 30/10/22 is the thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) and the Gospel reading is Lk. 19:1-10. The text of the

reading is below. The following format will be used for all Gospel reflections:

- Read the text aloud.
- Pause for a minute's silence.
- Read the text aloud again.
- Ask everyone to pick a word or a phrase that struck them. They just say the word or phrase without comment or discussion.
- Read the text again.
- Ask those present to comment on their word or phrase. What struck them about it? Why/how is it speaking to them?
- Continue with the discussion. The following questions may be helpful: What does this mean to me? How does it make me feel? Did I find the text disturbing/hopeful/confusing? What images of God emerge for me? What do I think that God is saying in this text? What impact does this have on my life?

GOSPEL READING

Reader: The Lord be with you.

Response: And with your spirit.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him; 'Zacchaeus, come down, hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house,' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord. 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Final Reflection:

The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.

The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down.

(Ps. 144:13-14).