

Scripture for 12 February 2023

The reading from the Hebrew Bible, commonly referred to as the Old Testament is Psalm 146, verses 2-9 from *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church**

I will praise the Ever-Living God all my life;
I will sing praises to my God throughout my living.
Put not your trust in the great, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.
When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.
Happy are these for whom the God of Rebekah's line is their help,
whose hope is in the Creator of All, their God.
Maker of heavens and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
keeping faith forever.
Bringer of justice to the oppressed,
bringer of bread to the hungry;
the Compassionate God sets the prisoners free.
The All-Seeing God opens the eyes of the blind,
the Just God lifts up those who are bowed down;
The Righteous God loves the righteous.
The Mother of All cares for the stranger,
orphan and widow she bears up,
but the way of the wicked she confounds.

*Gafney, Wilda C., *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year W*. Church Publishing Incorporated, 2021, p. 58

The New Testament reading is from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 5, verses 21-30 & 37

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.