



Homily for  
THE TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
15/16 October, 2016

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Fr. Dwayne's homily follows....

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday – C – 2016  
October 16, 2016  
Holy Spirit (SH/HT)

JMJ

Ex 17:8-13  
II Tim 3:14-4:2  
Lk 18:1-8

I. It's no secret our culture is steeped in moral relativism.

Moral relativism says that what is right or wrong is basically what I think is right or wrong. There are no moral rules that apply to all situations. I could make excuses for lying, stealing, lust, disobedience, disrespect, hatred, adultery, cruelty – whatever action I want – and if I think it is okay, then no one can tell me it isn't.

There were a couple of instances in the national media this past week where objective morality – the view that there is a standard of right or wrong – surprisingly surfaced.

One was one of the women involved with the Donald Trump controversy – I forget who – spoke out and said it is *never* right to disrespect women. Whether that's today, yesterday or fifty years ago.

The other instance was a male politician – again, I forget who – said the language Donald Trump used is never appropriate in a locker room, outside the locker room, in any other place, today or ever.

I found it a little bit amusing – and even more ironic – that in our culture where most would insist on justifying their behavior for almost any reason – would

surface at least a couple of examples of objective morality. In fact, that's incredible! Objective morality would say it is never right to abuse or disrespect a woman – or a man – or any person, in any circumstance, at any time in history – ever! The reason is it would be an assault on their God-given dignity as someone created in God's image.

II. Unfortunately, the prevalence of moral relativism, the evil and sin we witness every day, can wear us down and dampen our hopes of *ever* achieving more justice in the world. As the election year politics grind on, the underside of our culture is revealed more and more. We can begin to feel like the widows and orphans of scripture – those who are *swept* to the sidelines: forgotten...voiceless...powerless...disposable.

Except for the widow of today's parable. Perhaps she can teach us a lesson.

Her virtues are persistence and perseverance.

III. All too often, in too ways, we constantly hear of instances of injustice:

- we wrangle over the issue of immigration: who has what rights
- issues of racism, discrimination have risen among us in the past year
- proper medical care for our veterans
- what is proper care for the environment? Consider, for example, issues related to pipe lines crossing the country.
- how to help those who are honestly poor and struggle to realize basic necessities
- how to plan for Social Security
- what does healthy care in our country look like?
- issues related to gun control and violence

As you know, the list can go on and on. It's enough to make one's head spin.

IV. Often we can feel like that widow in the gospel: we become the widow in the parable. Do we just throw up our hands and walk away? Hide our head in the sand?

Or do we hunger and thirst for justice?

The widow was hungering and thirsting for justice.

She insisted that justice be done for her. And she wasn't going to give up until she received what was her due.

V. In the face of so many instances of injustice – the constant bickering we hear in the

media, especially in the field of politics - we feel powerless and know there is nothing we can do.

Yet our most powerful weapons can be those of the widow: *persistence and perseverance*.

A. In the midst of all this, we can still hunger and thirst for justice. We can still hold in our heart what we believe and know to be true – that some things are right and some things are always wrong. We can hold up the standard of justice in the face of so much injustice.

B. We can advocate – in whatever small way comes to us – the cause of justice for the little ones around us – in those instances, where we can have some influence.

C. And most importantly of all: we can always pray. Our prayer will help us to *never* give up hope. Prayer is not only about getting things to change – or making God do something. Prayer sustains us. It keeps hope alive within us. Prayer helps us maintain in our mind and heart what is true and right. Prayer teaches us to look at things from God's point of view. Prayer tells us what God's kingdom on earth might look like.

VI. Today's gospel parable offers us hope.

While justice delayed is discouraging and disheartening, God's plan for a world of justice and peace will eventually be accomplished – especially through persistence, perseverance and prayer.