



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



ordinary
time



lectionary
reading

Cycle C

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary #120

Reading I: Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10

The role of being a prophet, that is to speak God's truth, is not always without its cost. In today's first reading we encounter Jeremiah living out his prophetic role and it cost him the discomfort of being thrown into the cistern. He is eventually drawn out of the muck of the deep well due to his faithfulness to God. We too, are called to be prophets through the Sacrament of Baptism. When we are anointed with the Oil of Chrism on the crown of our heads, we are given the roles of *priest, prophet, and king*. Just as Jeremiah and the other prophets we are called to speak the truth, to be people of integrity and that takes disciple and **perseverance**.

Reading 2: Hebrews 12:1-4

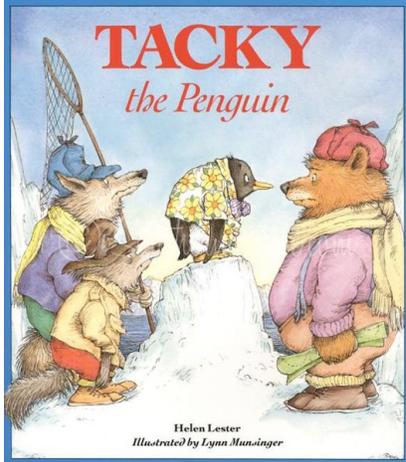
The writer of the letter to the Hebrews speaks also of **persevering** in our journey and to do so we are called to keep our *eyes fixed on Jesus*. Jesus is the model of discipline and **perseverance**. Keeping Him as our focus will allow us to travel the road even as we hit bumps in the road.

Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

In this gospel passage from Saint Luke we experience that being a disciplined follower of Jesus may indeed make us unpopular with others, and possibly with family or close friends. In remaining faithful to our discipleship we are also called to be loving towards those who may disagree with us. It is true that we are always to love the person even if their approach to life is different than ours. Division is a reality that we cannot escape, but we are called to love in the midst of it. In *Tacky the Penguin*, we see Tacky remaining true to who he is and not conforming to what the crowd is doing. It takes great discipline, and **perseverance** to be yourself. It was Tacky who, by remaining disciplined and **persevering** in being himself, that saved the penguins. Think of Jeremiah and Jesus and others who **persevered** in being different and unique and by doing so brought about very good things for their communities and us.



children's
story



Tacky the Penguin

Tacky the Penguin is a total nonconformist who lives with a group of formal, proper penguins. But it is Tacky who foils the plans of three hunters hoping to get rich quick by enslaving the penguins. With his un-penguin like antics, Tacky puzzles the hunters to such an extent, they're firmly convinced that they can't possibly be in the *land of the pretty penguins*. This tale clearly illustrates that there are advantages to being an individual and **persevering** in being unique.

Think about and celebrate how you are a unique image of God. How can you encourage others to appreciate their uniqueness and to **persevere** in being the unique image of God that they are? Take a look at a painting and see how many different colors there are in the painting. What would the painting look like if it were all the same color? Listen to a song and hear all the different notes that make up the melody. What if all the notes were the same in a song, what would it sound like?

Jeremiah and Jesus lived out their unique role as prophets and that made them unpopular with others. However by doing so they remained faithful to God and contributed to the richness of God's creation by not being the same note in a song or the same color in painting. How can you use your unique gifts to enhance the richness of your family, your class, your church and community? Remember that it takes discipline and **perseverance** to be different and differences coming together makes something beautiful for God and for the world.

Tacky the Penguin

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character
education
activity

Discipline and perseverance
The definition of both words
speaks to the test of anyone's
commitment to remaining
loyal and focused to a
particular virtue, must
especially when faced with
difficulties

Difference in the Details

Step One: Draw a figure of a car or a ship or anything that you like and after drawing it color it all the same color. Look at it and see how it might be improved by the addition of some other colors to bring out the details.

Step Two: Draw the same object again and add various colors to make the object look more enhanced by the variety of colors. Place the original drawing of the object next to the second object and see the differences and how the differences make the object richer and more detailed.

Discipline and perseverance are things that we will always have to work at. Think of it as always trying to be the best in whatever you do!



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

You are out on the playground during recess and there is one little boy who seems to always be alone because in class he is very quiet but often asks questions that seem very different from the other students in the class. Would you be willing to walk over to him and spend some time with him to better understand how he thinks and feels? If you were that little boy, what would you want someone to do for you to make you feel included?

How can you make people that seem different feel included and welcomed? What are some things you could do to help them to feel included?

Look Feel Know Act

Discipline and perseverance go hand in hand, and they are seen as definite signs of the strength of one's character. Each of the Sunday readings speak to being persons of discipline and perseverance in some of the hardest situations.

The prophet Jeremiah is not popular because he tells the people that they are not following the will of God. Even in the midst of being treated badly he remains who he is, a person that speaks God's truth, not someone who merely speaks what others want to hear. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews uses the image of keeping our eyes fixed on the person of Jesus to help us to remain disciplined and focused on what is important in a world that has all kinds of distractions. In today's gospel, Jesus clearly indicates that when we remain disciplined and focused in our values we will be unpopular but that perseverance and trusting in Jesus will see us through. That means that the difficulty won't necessarily go away, but that Jesus will help us move through the difficulty.

In *Tacky the Penguin*, we see Tacky remaining true to who he is and not conforming to what the crowd is doing. It takes great trust, discipline and **perseverance** to be yourself. It was Tacky who, by remaining disciplined in being who he is, saved the penguins. Think of Jeremiah and Jesus and others who remained disciplined and persevered in being different and unique and by doing so brought some very good things to their community and to us.



closing tool

Pray that you will always seek to be the unique image of God that you are and celebrate that fact. Pray also that God will give you the wisdom to see the uniqueness of others and celebrate that as well. In addition ask the Holy Spirit, that dwells within you, to assist you in persevering in being the unique image of God that you are.



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