

## **A reading from the book of Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, and Luke 16:1-13**

### **Jeremiah 8:18-9:1**

#### **The Prophet Mourns for the People**

<sup>18</sup> My joy is gone, grief is upon me,  
my heart is sick.

<sup>19</sup> Hark, the cry of my poor people  
from far and wide in the land:

‘Is the LORD not in Zion?  
Is her King not in her?’

(‘Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,  
with their foreign idols?’)

<sup>20</sup> ‘The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  
and we are not saved.’

<sup>21</sup> For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,  
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

<sup>22</sup> Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people  
not been restored?

**9** <sup>1a</sup> O that my head were a spring of water,  
and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
so that I might weep day and night  
for the slain of my poor people!

## **Luke 16:1-13**

### **The Parable of the Dishonest Manager**

**16** Then Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.” <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.” <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” <sup>6</sup> He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.” <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth<sup>[b]</sup> so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>10</sup> ‘Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth,<sup>[d]</sup> who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’<sup>[e]</sup>

*“The Word of God for the people of God, thanks be to God.”*  
**OR** *“Here ends the reading.”*