

Rev. Emmanuel-Garet Ifeakor
Jeremiah 20: 10-13
Romans 5: 12-15
Matthew 10: 26-33

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
EPIPHANY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Louisville, KY, USA
June 21, 2026

Theme: Whispering of many.

Whispering of many. (Singing) “He will save you. He will save you. He will save you, just now. Just now, He will save you. He will save you, just now.” Whispering of many. My dear friends in Christ, whispering is described as an act of talking or speaking in a low tone. Whispering can also mean talking quietly or in a low tone to someone. Everybody here must have whispered at some point. You must have whispered. You either whispered for good or you whispered for evil. Today, we want to thank everybody here who has whispered for good. In today’s reading, we are going to concentrate on those who whisper for evil or gossip for evil. In the first reading, Jeremiah says, “I hear the whispering of many: Terror on every side! Denounce! Let us denounce him! Jeremiah preached in the southern kingdom of Israel, which is Judah. The kingdom of Judah was known for resistance to God's message. They were known for resisting those who spoke the truth to them. Jeremiah prophesied among them. They started whispering against Jeremiah. In fact, Jeremiah faced significant opposition and persecution from them. They were whispering so that Jeremiah would be denounced. They were whispering so that Jeremiah would be hurt. They wanted to silence his prophetic voice.

My dear friends in Christ, whispering can also mean a secretive plan/plot and slander against someone. Whispering can also mean spreading unconfirmed derogatory information about another person; people who slander others are what we call character assassins. This refers to speaking ill of someone, especially when that person is not around. You go to your wife or your husband and whisper. Your husband goes to another person and whispers. You don't know whether what he said is true or not. You continue to whisper. You continue to gossip. You didn't confirm whether that derogatory information about another person is true or not. Now, this reminds me of what God said to the people of Israel in Leviticus 19: 16, “Do not go about spreading slander among your people. Do not do anything to endanger your neighbor’s life. I am the Lord.” My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the worst part in Jeremiah’s case was even his friends, allies, and those he trusted were also waiting to find out whether he would misstep, so that they could

laugh at him; "All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail and take our vengeance on him". This highlights the betrayal and isolation Jeremiah experienced. It is always pathetic when your friends, even those you trusted, continue to whisper against you in your absence. My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, God is talking to everybody today. God is talking to you. God is talking to me. How far have I taken or acted on what someone had told me about another person without confirmation? I begin to whisper against somebody or even hate somebody. Psalm 41:7 says, "Those who hate me are whispering against me. They imagine the worst to happen to me. Jeremiah was able to notice and realize that people had been whispering against him, and there were many. Recall, he did say, I heard the whispering of many. Thus, they were not one, two, or three. Those who were whispering against him were multiple. Most often, in our case today, what makes it worse is that you don't even know those who are whispering against you. You might be dining with that person. You might be having a conversation with that person. But you do not know that he or she is looking for something to act against you or just to denounce you, like the people in the first reading of today, whispering, plotting a secret plan or evil plan against Jeremiah. But there is consolation. At the tail end of that reading, Jeremiah says, "I entrusted my cause in God who probes mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them". God knows everything. I have spoken the truth to these people. They are plotting against me. They are plotting to kill me. They are plotting to harm me. Despite the threats and plots against him, Jeremiah trusted in God's deliverance and justice. We, too, can also rely on God to vindicate us in his time.

As I said before, those who have whispered for something good, something that edifies, builds up, and uplifts people; this is the kind of whispering that Christ says in the gospel that whatever you hear me whisper in darkness, proclaim on the housetops. My dear friends in Christ, what I know from the history of humanity is that evil doesn't triumph over good. People may whisper against you. People may plot a secret plan. They may slander you. They may fabricate character assassination. But at the end, good triumphs over evil. This is also reflected in the second reading, where sin entered the world through one person. And through sin, death came, and thus death came to all people, inasmuch as all sinned. God didn't leave us at that level. Evil didn't triumph over good. Thus, the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one-man Jesus Christ overflow for many. We have been saved by Our Lord Jesus. (Singing) "He will save you. He will save you. He will save you just now." Evil does not triumph over good. That is why in the gospel Christ says, "Do not fear those who kill only the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him, and that is God, who can kill the soul and body and throw them in Gehenna.

When people whisper against you. When people plot an evil plan against you. When people talk about what you have not said, do not worry. Do not be afraid. Do not fear. God will vindicate you in His own time because evil doesn't triumph over good. My dear friends in Christ, today, we remember all the fathers all over the world. Fatherhood is a gift. Fatherhood is a blessing. Fatherhood is a generous gift from God. We pray for all the fathers all over the world. Today is a day we have to say to our fathers, thank you, Dad, for what you have done for me. Many of us were trained by our dad or mom. It is a day like this when you can pick up your phone and call your dad, saying, thank you, Dad. Dad, I love you and thank you for all the sacrifices you have made in your life. It is disheartening that today, some children whisper against their dad. Very pathetic. They (our dads) deserve our deep respect. They watch us grow. They sent us to school. They cared for us when we were growing up. For all the dads that are already in heaven, those that have passed, we ask God to use their prayers to bless our respective families. And let us continue to carry their legacy. May God help us in this world to navigate through the hard times when people whisper against us, especially those we don't know who are whispering against us. What we do know is that evil doesn't triumph over good. "He will save you. He will save you. He will save you, just now. Just now, He will save you. He will save you, just now." Whispering of many.