

January 31 2016 "The 'Fine Lines' of Life"

based on Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Luke 4:21-30

Fine line between pain and misery, and well-being and joy.

- See it frequently in sports – Patriots and Gostowski last week
- Many wind up second because of a small mistake, slight miscalculation, misunderstanding, a letdown in effort
- Story about Porche and porch
- We are winners in God's eyes, no matter how we score or where we finish.

Jesus returned to hometown, read Scripture from Isaiah in synagogue, and now commented

- People resented his comments. "Is this not Joseph's son?"
- Jesus withdrew, didn't always succeed, but Jesus knew 'who he was'

Jeremiah was made for God's purpose.

- God said to Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you."
- Jeremiah made excuses: "I don't know how to speak, for I am only a youth..."
- God pledged help, and Jeremiah served his purpose.

God knows us from the beginning, desires us to be His own. Sacrament of Baptism confirms that.

- Every person important to God and God will use people to carry out the divine will.
- But, God will not force the issue. We have a 'free will'.
- Solzhenitsyn story: 'Cross' restored his faith enough to see another day.

If we live to ourselves, without God, out of self-satisfaction, with no purpose other than personal gain, we'll end up unfulfilled and possibly unhappy. But, with God, we'll be able to handle and overcome whatever obstacles come. God challenges us to be 'somebody', and will provide 'words' and courage to fulfill God's purposes. God knows us, Jesus died on the Cross for us, that should empower us to live as Christians!