

September 23, 2022

Father Ed's Sunday Reading

(continued)

These are like the crumbs that fall from our table. The warning of Amos aims at us: "Woe to those ensconced snugly in Zion."

However, the problem of shocking inequality of opportunity in our world is so large that we tend to shrug off any responsibility for our personal part in it. You may be living in a bed-sitter with few comforts or struggling just to meet mortgage repayments on your home. Yet all the services we benefit from, our public transport system, our education, our health services etc. derive from the rich man's club to which we belong. In that sense, we are dining at the rich man's table.

The prosperity of the developed world began with products that were looted from the colonies. We still get primary resources from developing countries for a relative pittance, like the tea and coffee we drink, or our year-long supply of fruit from tropical countries. Added to that, we still look to poorer countries to accept our toxic waste. After feeding and clothing ourselves with their resources, we want to return our rubbish to them. We know that we are contributing to climate change, yet don't relish the lifestyle changes that are required. We need to learn from the parable of Dives and Lazarus. Our world is too small to bear such inequalities. Unless we share our surplus and care for our world, we will end up in a hell of our own making.