

[129] **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME B**

FIRST READING

The harvest of justice is sown in peace by those who make peace.

A reading from the book of the letter of James

3:17-18

Brothers and sisters:

The wisdom that comes from above
leads us to be pure, friendly, gentle,
sensible, kind, helpful, genuine, and sincere.
When peacemakers plant seeds of peace,
they will harvest justice.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

122:1-2, 8-9

R. (Sirach 36:18) Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you.

It made me glad
to hear them say,
“Let’s go to the house
of the Lord!”
Jerusalem, we are standing
inside your gates.

R Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you.

Because of my friends
and my relatives,
I will pray for peace.
And because of the house
of the Lord our God,
I will work for your good.

R Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you.

ALLELUIA

See Thessalonians 2:14

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God has called us with the gospel,
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark 9:33-37

Jesus and his disciples went to his home in Capernaum.

After they were inside the house, Jesus asked them,
“What were you arguing about along the way?”
They had been arguing about which one of them was the greatest,
and so they did not answer.

After Jesus sat down and told the twelve disciples
to gather around him,
he said, “If you want the place of honor,
you must become a slave and serve others!”

Then Jesus had a child stand near him.
He put his arm around the child and said,
“When you welcome even a child because of me, you welcome me.
And when you welcome me,
you welcome the one who sent me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

We want to be persons that follow your way of living every day. Please help us to care about others and always treat them with respect.

Readings: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20, Ps. 54:3-4, 6-8, James 3:16-4:3, Mark 9:30-37

Reflections:

As we read the Gospels we can see the way Jesus lived when He was on this earth. We see he was kind, loving and full of mercy toward others. Let's think about today's reading where Jesus says, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all". It almost seems that he is saying we shouldn't be first at anything, and so we shouldn't try hard at our lessons or things like that. That isn't, of course, what Jesus means. If we think about what happens when we always try to be first and brag about it, we realize it does not make for a peaceful atmosphere among those around us. And if we are arguing about who is the greatest, it makes others feel uneasy about their own selves. It is important for us to figure out why we find ourselves needing to think we are more important or better than others. Jesus wouldn't be thinking that way, would He? (Pause a minute, let the students think.)

Now let's think about Jesus taking a child and putting His arms around them. Usually a little child is not concerned about being first or wanting to be more important than others, are they? So, what would that tell us about what Jesus is saying and our wanting to think ourselves more important or better than others? (Pause to think.) Could Jesus be telling us that everyone was made by God and therefore, we are to love and respect others, no matter who they are or what they can do? So when Jesus says, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me; receives not me but the one who sent me – we try to understand that what Jesus wants is that we receive himself and the Father as well as all other people into our lives and hearts.

Discussion

1. Why do you think the disciples didn't want to answer Jesus when He asked them what they were arguing about?
2. a. Do you sometimes argue with someone about being smarter, or better than they are or that you are able to do something better than they can?
b. What usually happens when you or someone else does this?
3. What would you say about what Jesus means when he says, "Whoever receives one child such as this receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me, but the one who sent me"?

(continued on page 2)

Activity

(Have a worksheet with these words and meanings for each child. Ask the children to match the word to the meaning by drawing a line from one to the other. It could be used for class or for homework. You might find it helpful to read the reading from James before asking the children to tackle this worksheet).

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. Righteous | being willing to yield to others |
| 2. Peaceful | living one's life with honorable and right deeds |
| 3. Gentle | being honest and fair in all actions |
| 4. Merciful | without sin |
| 5. Goodness | being pleasant acting – planting seeds of peace |
| 6. Pure | kindness in response to another who needs forgiveness |