

[138] **TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME B**

FIRST READING

In comparison to wisdom, I held riches as nothing.

A reading from the book of Wisdom

7:7-11

I prayed for understanding,
and it was given to me.
I asked God for Wisdom
and it came to me.

I valued Wisdom more than power and kingdoms.
Riches were nothing compared with Wisdom.
I considered her more valuable than priceless jewels.
Gold was nothing but sand,
and silver was merely mud,
when compared with Wisdom.

I loved her more than good health and beauty.
I preferred Wisdom to light,
because she is much brighter.
Wisdom has countless treasures,
and everything good is mine because of her.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

90:12 and 14, 16-17 abc

R. (14) Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Teach us to use wisely
all the time we have.
When morning comes,
let your love satisfy
all our needs.
Then we can celebrate
and be glad for what time
we have left.

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Do wonderful things for us,
your servants,

and show your mighty power
to our children.
Our Lord and our God,
treat us with kindness
and let all go well for us.

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

SECOND READING

The word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 4:12-13

Brothers and sisters:

What God has said is not only alive and active!
It is sharper than any double-edged sword.
His word can cut through our spirits and souls
and through our joints and marrow,
until it discovers the desires and thoughts of our hearts.

Nothing is hidden from God!
he sees through everything,
and we will have to tell him the truth.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Matthew 5:3

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Go, sell everything you have and come follow me.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark 10:17-27

As Jesus was walking down a road,
a man ran up to him.
He kneeled down, and asked,
“Good teacher, what can I do to have eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “Why do you call me good?
Only God is good.
You know the commandments.
‘Do not murder.
Be faithful in marriage.
Do not steal.
Do not tell lies about others.
Do not cheat.
Respect your father and mother.’”

The man answered,
“Teacher, I have obeyed all these commandments
since I was a young man.”

Jesus looked closely at the man.
He liked him and said,
“There’s one thing you still need to do.
Go sell everything you own.
Give the money to the poor,
and you will have riches in heaven.
Then come with me.”

When the man heard Jesus say this,
he went away gloomy and sad because he was very rich.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples,
“It’s hard for rich people to get into God’s kingdom!”
The disciples were shocked to hear this.
So Jesus told them again,
“It’s terribly hard to get into God’s kingdom!
In fact, it’s easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle
than for a rich person to get into God’s kingdom.”

Jesus’ disciples were even more amazed.
They asked each other,
“How can anyone ever be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and said,
“There are some things that people cannot do,
but God can do anything.”

Twenty-eight Sunday of Ordinary Time — Cycle B

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I want to follow you and learn more about you. I want to know more how I can show my love for you. Please help me be a good friend to you and everyone. AMEN.

Readings: Wisdom 7:7-11; Ps 90: 12-17; Hebrews 4:12-13; Mark 10:17-30

Reflection: Isn't it true: We want it both ways! The Gospel story today reminds us that it just isn't possible. What is it that makes us say: I really want to follow Jesus but I want to do it my way. The man who approaches Jesus believes he is "doing it right." He merely asks for verification: I have done everything THAT I HAVE TO. Jesus asks him to consider "one more thing." Jesus "biggie sizes"/"Super sizes" it! When we are wise, we see with the heart of Jesus and we know there is always "one more thing" I can do to offer love, kindness and goodness to others. If I have to 'ask'—then I should be wise enough to know: Yes, unconditional love means I can only give more!!

Work with the children to remember times when mom and dad or teachers have said: "If I have to tell you 'ONE MORE TIME'"—isn't it always when —If they were "WISE" (Like the Wisdom we pray for in the first reading), then we would already have done the 'one more thing' without having to be asked. When we follow Jesus, we strive to be wise enough to know what the 'one more thing' is that needs to be done! Then our hearts are "biggie sized/super sized" with love!! Tell the children that in the Gospel passage the word(s)—looking and looked are used. Jesus is 'looking' into the heart of the young man and at the crowd—both want to do the right thing. Remind the children of the very last line: All things are possible for God."

Activities: ONE MORE THING or ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR GOD If you can either make a poster of a 'biggie sized/super sized' heart with a set of smaller hearts within the heart. Under the heart, write: ONE MORE THING. Then as you talk with the children about the 'one more thing' that shows they are wiser with every loving and kind deed they offer, write a key word or phrase in the heart. Have a heart for each child with the words: ONE MORE THING or ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR GOD printed on it.

To Conclude the Session: Have the children sit in a circle and name the loving deed they are going to practice this week—doing something before having to be asked; giving of a toy or something that is 'mine' to another; attending to my chores without being asked; giving something I don't need to the St Vincent De Paul or Thrift Shop. Then pass out the hearts to be their reminder.

Prayer: Dear Jesus: Fill our hearts with your love so we can always be willing to have 'biggie sized' hearts! Help us to do the 'one more thing' this week which will show our love for you!