

Readings & Background

First Reading

Sirach 27:4–7

In his conversation is the test of the man.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 92: 2–3,13–16

The just shall flourish like a palm tree.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15: 54–58

Thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:39–45

Each tree is known by its yield.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The third and final section of Luke's Sermon on the Plain begins: And he told them a parable. There are actually four parables, three of which we read today. They are all about how to be a good disciple.

The blind cannot lead the blind. And a disciple cannot be a good disciple unless he or she has learned from the teacher. Everyone who is fully trained is like the teacher who knows how to cure the blind. Before you can be a good disciple and teach others you must take care of yourself. Do not try to take a speck out of your brother's eye until you have taken the board out of your own. Finally, only when you have purified yourself can you produce the good works that the teacher requires. Discipleship asks us to produce good deeds. But to produce them requires the integrity and purity of heart found in the teacher. When people see your good deeds they will know that this is because you have a good heart.

The final parable, which we do not read today, is about building on the solid foundation of rock and not on sand. This is the only way to face the difficulties a disciple will encounter and survive.

Making the Connection

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:39–45

Each tree is known by its yield.

Modeling good behavior is one appropriate way for children to participate in the mission of leading others to Jesus. Support children in understanding that Jesus teaches us to focus on our own behavior rather than focusing our attention on judging others.

Materials Needed

Copies of the Peace Prayer

Preparation for Sunday Scripture Readings

Have children point their finger. Point your finger straight ahead and then turn your hand to the right to reveal the three fingers against your palm. Invite children to do the same.

Say: There is a saying that when we point our finger at others, we have three fingers pointing back at ourselves. We don't notice the three fingers because they're hidden. The saying warns us about making judgments about others. Ask: What do you think it means? (When we judge others, we are not noticing the behaviors we need to work on ourselves.)

Say: In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us how to be a good disciple. Listen carefully to this Gospel.

Invite volunteers to read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 6:27–38.

Ask: What does Jesus say we should do before we remove the splinter in our brother's eye? (Remove the wooden beam from our eye.) Say: A wooden beam is much bigger than a splinter. Just like the saying about pointing our finger, Jesus is calling attention to the fact that if we focus our attention on other's faults, we do not notice our own. He calls us to examine our conscience and act as he would have us act rather than focusing on what others are doing.

Say: We are good disciples when we model Christian love and make good, moral choices. When we see someone do something that we think is wrong, we do not have to participate. We can be a positive influence by showing a different way to act. Ask: Can you think of some examples? (Accept all reasonable answers, such as "If we see someone excluding another child, we can include the child and be kind to him or her.")

Distribute the Peace Prayer. Pray the prayer aloud together.