

[71] **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** A

FIRST READING

The Lord never commanded anyone to be godless.

A reading from the book of Sirach

15:15-20

If you really want to,
you can faithfully obey the Lord's commands.
The Lord gives you the choice between fire and water.
Take the one you want.
You can also choose between life and death.
The one you want is yours.
The Lord is very wise.
He can do anything,
and he sees everything.
The Lord watches over everyone who respects him,
and he knows everything that anyone does.
The Lord did not command us to sin and do wrong.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

119:1-2, 4-5, 33-34

R. (1b) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Our Lord, you bless everyone
who lives right and obeys your Law.
You bless all of those
who follow your commands
from deep in their hearts.

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

You have ordered us always
to obey your teachings;
I don't ever want to stray
from your laws.

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Point out your rules to me,
and I won't disobey
even one of them.
Help me to understand your Law;
I promise to obey it
with all my heart.

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

SECOND READING

God's wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 2:6-10

Brothers and sisters:

We use wisdom when speaking to people who are mature in their faith.
But it is not the wisdom of this world or of its rulers,
who will soon disappear.
We speak of God's hidden and mysterious wisdom
that God decided to use for our glory
long before the world began.

The rulers of this world didn't know anything about this wisdom.
If they had known about it,
they would not have nailed the glorious Lord to a cross.
But it is just as the Scriptures say,
"What God has planned for people who love him
is more than eyes have seen or ears have heard.
It has never even entered our minds!"

God's Spirit has shown you everything.
His Spirit finds out everything,
even what is deep in the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

See Matthew 11:25

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Be reconciled before you offer your gift.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 5:23-24

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If you are about to place your gift on the altar
and remember that someone is angry with you,
leave your gift there in front of the altar.

Make peace with that person,
then come back and offer your gift to God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle A**

Prayer:

Dear God,
Teach us your wisdom and love.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Readings:

Sirach	15:15-20
Psalm	119:1-2, 4-5, 33-34
First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians	2:6-10
Matthew	5:23-24

Reflection

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, what God has ready for those who love Him. Spirit of love, come give us the mind of Jesus. Teach us the wisdom of God." This is the refrain from the song *Eye Has Not Seen* by Marty Haugan. We sing it in Church but have we ever really thought about the words. What is the wisdom of God? What does God have for us if we love God and obey God like we heard in today's readings? Looking to Jesus, we can begin to find some of the answers. Jesus lived in a Jewish culture with many rules but instead of following all of those laws He followed God's law. He did things like heal someone on a Sabbath day. The rule at the time was to rest and do not work on the Sabbath but Jesus saw someone who needed help so He helped him. Even when God asked Jesus to suffer and die, He obeyed. The gospels tell us He didn't really want to but God had a plan so Jesus did what was asked of Him and now He has been raised and is forever with God.

God has given us a path for our lives. By following God's instructions we follow that path and are led to a life of love and happiness. We have a choice though. God does not force us to do anything. We can choose how we want to live and act. God's wisdom will help us choose the way of love and ultimate happiness if we listen to God.

Discussion

1. Have you ever tried to play a Wii or Playstation game without reading the directions or doing the tutorial before starting to play?
2. How did it go?
3. Did you know what button to push to make it do what it needed to do?
4. Did you waste time figuring it out and then ran out of time?

Just like in your games where you need the instructions before you play so that you can win, in life you need to find out God's instructions by reading the bible, by listening to teachers and by praying.

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Activity: I Spy With My God-Like Eye

Materials needed: Nothing!

In this game you will try to get the class to figure out a person who is following God's path by describing the things that person does. Eventually when they get the hang of the game you can let the students take turn thinking of someone and giving the clues.

Ex:

"I spy with my God-like eye....someone who teaches us about God every Sunday at Mass."

Answer: Fr. _____

"I spy with my God-like eye...someone who shows us God's love when she puts a band-aid on our knee after we fall on the school playground." Answer: Mrs. _____, the school nurse