

October 4, 2015

27th Sunday in Ordinary time

Lord, may we, your children, enter into the Kingdom.

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalms 128:1-6

Hebrews 2:9-11

Mark 10:2-16

God says that it is not good for man to be alone and so he will make a suitable partner for him. A deep sleep is cast upon the man and after one of his ribs is removed a partner is built out of it. Hence, she is built out of her man and the man says she will be called woman.

The psalmist describes as blessed and favored those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways. They will see prosperity all the days of their lives; their wives will be like fruitful vines, and their children as olive plants.

Paul notes that Jesus was made lower than the angels for a while and tasted death for everyone. It was through his suffering that he was made perfect. Jesus is not ashamed to call those who are in the process of being consecrated, brothers.

The Pharisees ask Jesus "Is it lawful to divorce a wife?" Jesus says that Moses permitted it because of the hardness of their hearts but God created male and female and when joined they become one flesh. What God joins together is not to be separated by man. The disciples were turning away parents who were bringing their children to Jesus. He responds by saying, "Let the children come to me for the Kingdom belongs to such as these." He embraced them, blessed them, and placed his hands upon them. Those who do not accept the Kingdom of God as children will not enter it.

Father Almighty, set up your Kingdom in our midst,
Lord Jesus, Son of the Father, have mercy on us sinners,
Holy Spirit, breath of the Living God,
Renew us and all the world.

God's love moves his great creative power. Our own love for God and for neighbor is what brings our lives to fulfillment. This balance in love was forgotten by the hard hearted of Moses' time who wanted to easily divorce their wives and remarry. Jesus explains that the mystery which binds man and woman in marriage is imbedded in the very mystery of creation. Walk in the ways of the Lord and be blessed and favored.

The synagogues offered Jesus a chance to preach and teach as they furnished regular meeting places on the Sabbath where the religiously inclined could study the Scriptures and also pray. Any layman who showed the ability to explain sacred scriptures might do so from the synagogue platform. Jesus was able to do this very effectively and became very popular as a synagogue speaker and large audiences came to hear him. His message at the beginning was, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." It later became apparent to the crowds that Jesus could do amazing healings and exorcisms. Many believed that the Kingdom of God was to displace the present age which was thought to be controlled by the Evil One. It was significant therefore that Jesus was able to control demon spirits and cure diseases and as a result the people could begin to believe that Kingdom was really drawing near and that possibly Jesus could turn out to be the expected Messiah.

