

October 11, 2015

28th Sunday in Ordinary time

O Lord, illuminate our hearts with your Wisdom!

Wisdom 7:7-11

Psalms 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-13

Mark 10:17-30

Solomon prayed and prudence was given to him. He pleaded and wisdom came to him. He preferred her to scepter, throne, riches, gems and even beyond health. Her splendor never yields even to sleep and all good things together came in her company.

The psalmist prays that he may gain wisdom of heart and seeks the Lord's kindness at daybreak. He was once afflicted and saw evil but now realizes this past suffering is turned into gladness. He pleads to the Lord to prosper the works of our hands as we come to see wisdom's works.

Paul tells the brothers and sisters in faith that the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates and discerns thoughts and reflections of the heart. It exposes all things to the one to whom we must render account.

Jesus is approached by a man who asks what must be done to inherit eternal life. Jesus recites the commandments and the man responds that he has kept all of them since youth. Then, Jesus replies, "Sell what you have, give the money to the poor, and come follow me." The man went away sad for he had many things. Jesus emphasizes to his disciples how difficult it will be for the wealthy to enter the Kingdom of God. Peter notes that the disciples have given up all to follow Jesus. "You will receive a hundredfold in return," says Jesus, "and even eternal life in the age to come."



Immortal, Holy Threefold Light,
Yours are Kingdom, Power and Might,
All glory be given eternally,
To you, life-giving Trinity.

Wisdom is gift from the life-giving Trinity and is not to be confused with earthly knowledge and the readings indicate wisdom comes through prayer, pleading and perseverance. It is God's word come to life and helps us discern right actions. Jesus' words to the young man were words of wisdom and the man's response indicates how difficult it sometimes is to overcome the temptations and comforts of worldly allurements. Pray that Jesus help you root out any worldly hindrance in your spiritual life.

Jesus indicates to his disciples that a man's real life, the life that lasts, does not depend upon having a wealth of things, but that these may actually be a hindrance. How much of soul and spirit will someone be able to show when separated from the numerous things that brought temporary comfort in worldly life, when there would be nothing to see except the man himself? Great comfort in life detracts from the time needed to prepare for the last day. Wealth and fortune need to be used to help neighbors, to aid the plight of those in need, to be "rich" toward others. Not too long ago it was revealed that a CEO sentenced for fraud had an \$18,000 shower curtain, an evangelist had an air conditioned dog house for his pet.

Jesus is telling us to get our priorities in order and to use our advantages to help the many in dire need.

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