

August 28, 2016

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord, help us mirror the humility of Jesus your Son.

Sirach 3: 17-18, 20, 28-29

Psalm 68: 4-7, 10-11

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

Luke 14:1, 7-14

The first reading emphasizes that our affairs are to be conducted with humility. We are not to delve into things beyond our strength and too sublime for our understanding. On the other hand we need to be attentive and appreciate spiritual wisdom.

The psalmist recognizes that those who are just will rejoice and exult and even sing joyfully to God. The forsaken, who are just, will be given a home, the prisoners prosperity, and our God will help those in great need.

In the second reading Paul describes the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of our living God, the One who is judge of all. Present are countless angels, souls of the just made perfect, and Jesus, mediator of the New Covenant.



In the Gospel Jesus teaches with parables, and in particular that the humble person will eventually be exalted. And if we help those that cannot help us in return, the reward comes in the resurrection of the just.

Humility
a strange thing.
The minute you think
you've got it,
you've lost it.

The Father is just in his great power,
And rejoices in the Son's humble ways.
The Holy Spirit lights the path to humility.

Just persons are honorable and fair in all their dealings and actions. Humble persons, those who can face the facts, realize both their potential as well as their shortcomings and act accordingly. The two qualities, justice and humility, emphasized clearly in our readings, have important spiritual implications and are epitomized in the life of Jesus. We are not to put ourselves down, but neither are we to put ourselves above others. For the sake of justice we should ask ourselves, "When is the last time we did something for persons whom we know cannot reciprocate?" After all, there is nothing we can do for the Lord, yet consider all that he does for us! How uncomfortable it is for us to be rid of the attitude that life continually owes us a break. We expect others to love us, to support all our efforts, always give us a break, consistently back us up, bear with our faults even when we neglect them, read between the lines without adequate explanations and make allowances that we never make for others. Humility comes from the root word "humus," of the earth, so if we are simply "down to earth" in our ways, we will be appreciated by friend and foe alike, and our expectations will be realistic.

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