

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 October 14, 2018

Reading 1: Wisdom 7: 7-11

I prayed, and prudence was given me;
 I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.
 I preferred her to scepter and throne,
 and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her,
 nor did I liken any priceless gem to her;
 because all gold, in view of her, is a little sand,
 and before her, silver is to be accounted mire.
 Beyond health and comeliness I loved her,
 and I chose to have her rather than the light,
 because the splendor of her never yields to sleep.
 Yet all good things together came to me in her company,
 and countless riches at her hands.

Responsorial: Psalm 90

*Fill us with your love, O Lord,
 and we will sing for joy!*

Teach us to number our days aright,
 that we may gain wisdom of heart.
 Return, O LORD! How long?
 Have pity on your servants!

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,
 that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.
 Make us glad, for the days when you afflicted us,
 for the years when we saw evil.

Let your work be seen by your servants
 and your glory by their children;
 and may the gracious care of the LORD
 our God be ours;
 prosper the work of our hands for us!
 Prosper the work of our hands!

Reading 2: Hebrews 4: 12-13

Brothers and sisters:
 Indeed the word of God is living and effective,
 sharper than any two-edged sword,
 penetrating even between soul and spirit,
 joints and marrow,
 and able to discern reflections
 and thoughts of the heart.
 No creature is concealed from him,
 but everything is naked
 and exposed to the eyes of him
 to whom we must render an account.

Gospel: Mark 10: 17-30

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up,
 knelt down before him, and asked him,
 "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
 Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good?
 No one is good but God alone.
 You know the commandments: *You shall not kill;
 you shall not commit adultery;
 you shall not steal;
 you shall not bear false witness;
 you shall not defraud;
 honor your father and your mother.*"
 He replied and said to him,
 "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth."
 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him,
 "You are lacking in one thing.
 Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor
 and you will have treasure in heaven;
 then come, follow me."
 At that statement his face fell,
 and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples,
 "How hard it is for those who have wealth
 to enter the kingdom of God!"
 The disciples were amazed at his words.
 So Jesus again said to them in reply,
 "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!
 It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle
 than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
 They were exceedingly astonished
 and said among themselves,
 "Then who can be saved?"
 Jesus looked at them and said,
 "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God.
 All things are possible for God."
 Peter began to say to him,
 "We have given up everything and followed you."
 Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you,
 there is no one who has given up house
 or brothers or sisters
 or mother or father or
 children or lands
 for my sake and for the
 sake of the gospel
 who will not receive a
 hundred times more
 now in this present age:
 houses and brothers and
 sisters and mothers and
 children and lands,
 with persecutions,
 and eternal life
 in the age to come."



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I Will Choose Christ

*I will choose Christ, I will choose love, I choose to serve
I give my heart, I give my life, I give my all to you*

How many times must he call my name
and show to me that he is God
And as a servant he calls to me, "You must serve too"

Christ, my teacher and healer,
teach my heart and heal my soul
And as I walk this road with you, teach me to love

As I look upon your cross,
So too must I die with you
And with the death of my own desire, I'll rise with you.

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Psalm 90

Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

My Word

My Word is sharper than a two-edged sword,
My Word can penetrate the coldest soul.
My Word is wilder than a raging fire,
My Word can still the storm inside your heart.

**My Word is alive in hope and alive in fear,
alive in joy and alive in tears.
Alive in peace and alive in pain,
alive when all your friends have walked away.
My Word is alive.**

My Word is richer than the finest gold,
My Word is purer than the fallen snow.
My Word is far beyond the faintest star,
My Word is planted deep inside your heart.

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"Ground Rules" for Small Group Faith Sharing

Maintain confidentiality – "Whatever happens in small group stays in small group."
Judgment-free zone – You don't have to agree with every one, but you have to have respect for everyone.
No "shut downs" or "put downs" – See Christ in one another, BE Christ to one another.
Don't be a "discussion hog" – Be sure that everyone that wants to gets a chance to share.
Leave room for the Spirit – Silence is OK! Not everyone has to share.
Practice active listening – Avoid interrupting, fidgeting, criticizing, lecturing, or thinking of what you're going to say while another person is speaking.
Questions are a guide - You do not have to answer all of them or go in order.
Be open – God is doing amazing things!

Questions for Reflection

1. What word or phrase from the Gospel resonated with you?
2. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the young man to give away all he has. Who do you know that continuously gives of their possessions? Of themselves? What are these people like? Do they receive the hundredfold that Jesus promises to those who follow him? What happens to you when you give of yourself?
3. Do you think the difficulty lies in possessing things, or is it our clinging to them? Or is it our inner drive to accumulate things? Can the unchecked desire to possess be a stumbling block to world peace or ecological sustainability? How has our consumer-oriented culture and society's emphasis on winning at all costs diminished the human spirit?
4. In the First Reading, we hear, "Yet all good things together came to me in [Wisdom's] company, and countless riches at her hands." What are the riches that will come if we employ God's Wisdom?
5. In the Second Reading, it says, "the word of God ... is able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart." How do you feel about the Word knowing you better than you know yourself? Do you trust God with such personal things? What correlation do you think there is between knowing God better and knowing yourself better?
6. Read Pope Francis' words below. How is he speaking to you? What resonates?

Petitions

Our response: "Fill us with your love."

Closing Prayer: God of wisdom, whose word probes the motives of our hearts, with you all things are possible. Let worldly treasure not keep us from Jesus, who looks on us with love. Free us to leave all things and follow him, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Words from our Holy Father

[W]e all must strip ourselves of this worldliness: the spirit opposing the spirit Beatitudes, the spirit opposing the spirit of Jesus. Worldliness hurts us. It is so very sad to find a worldly Christian, sure — according to him — of that security that the faith gives and of the security that the world provides. You cannot be on both sides. The Church — all of us — must strip herself of the worldliness that leads to vanity, to pride, that is idolatry.

-Pope Francis, Meeting with the Poor assisted by Caritas, 4 October 2013