

32nd Ordinary Sunday
November 8, 2020
“Seeking Wisdom”

Wis 6:12-16
1 Thess 4:13-18
Mt 25:1-13

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

One of the daily challenges we all must face is what is the best thing to do in every situation. How do we make the best decision in every circumstance? What is best for me, for others, and for the world that surrounds us? Because what might benefit me, might not benefit others – or might even cause them serious harm. Furthermore, what are the short-term and the long-term consequences of my decision?

Often enough, we are not sure. We don't know how to decide. We can't see everything clearly from our limited perspective. Consequently, if we are smart, we turn to someone with more experience – someone we know and trust – someone who has good judgment and insight. In other words, we seek out a person who has wisdom! Fortunately, both the Old Testament and Gospel passages have much to teach us in this regard.

The Book of Wisdom, the last of the Old Testament books, was written less than 100 years before the time of Jesus. The author sought to give encouragement and direction to the faithful Jews who were displaced and living in Egypt. He teaches that the gift of Wisdom is available for anyone who wants it and searches for it. Wisdom can even come to us ahead of time in some circumstances. God knows our heart and soul. He knows the problem we will have to face before it confronts us. And His gift of Wisdom is there, waiting for us, when we come to that moment.

Nevertheless, to discover this Wisdom, we must make time to search for it every day. We must school ourselves to be open to God's voice at every moment. We must make time to be still and listen. We must have space away from all the distractions of the internet and the absurd foolishness of the world, the society, and the culture which surrounds us!

What is truly wonderful is that Jesus, himself, is the incarnation of Divine Wisdom. The Son of God is the Word of God, who is also the Wisdom of God. And Jesus came to show us how to live and even die as the very children of God who we are! Consequently, if we seek Jesus, we will be seeking Wisdom – and we will discover what is always right, and good, and best!

In St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus teaches us just how important it is to live wise and dedicated lives. The 10 virgins symbolize ourselves. Our vocation is to be ready to meet Jesus, the Bridegroom, whenever he comes. We don't know when he will come for us, because we don't know the moment of our death. But we must be prepared. We must be ready at all times. Yes, we need our rest and our sleep – Yes, too, we must live our daily lives with their consequent responsibilities. Nevertheless, no matter what, we must always be ready when God calls us out of this life and into the next.

Moreover, we can't use someone else's oil – which symbolizes their own good works and preparedness – instead of our own. Only we, ourselves, will be able to answer for our readiness or not!

St. Paul and many of the early disciples expected the Second Coming of Jesus and the end of the world during their own lifetimes. However, as good and faithful disciples began to die, they worried about the salvation of those who had passed away. Thus, with God's revelation, Paul assures them that it doesn't matter. The dead will rise as Jesus rose. Moreover, they will even precede the living in the procession into the eternal life of the Kingdom!

And so, Brothers and Sisters, let us pray for the Wisdom of God.

Let us seek that Wisdom in the person of Jesus.

Let us make time to listen to what God reveals to us.

And may we be ready for whenever the moment that Jesus will come for us!

Amen.

November 8, 2020

Msgr. Russell G. Terra