

22<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Sunday  
August 28, 2022  
“Sharing Whatever Wealth We Have”

Sir 3:17...29  
Heb 12:18...24  
Lk 14:1...14

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

Americans, today, take so much for granted. The same is true for most people in First World countries around the globe. Even the least well-off of us present, here, today, is better off than any of the homeless in our city. Furthermore, if we consider the millions of poor in Third or Fourth World countries, then we are all well-off, indeed!

Yet, we are all part of the human family. We are all brothers and sisters to every person who has ever lived. So, why are some well-off, while others barely eke out an existence? And, if we have been blessed with more, what are our obligations to those who experience hardship through no fault of their own?

These should be unsettling questions for us. But they are addressed in the scriptures for today.

In the Gospel, Jesus challenges those who believe they should enjoy special privileges. At a banquet, they were seeking places of honor. They cared more about themselves than for anyone else. Moreover, they were, certainly, lacking in humility.

Although they were all educated, they had forgotten the words of Sirach in the Old Testament passage. Therein, we are told to seek humility – which is the unvarnished truth about ourselves.

Aware of this truth, we should act and behave accordingly. God will reward us the more respectful and deferential we are to others, no matter who they are. Because we will listen more, we will learn wisdom in our silence. Furthermore, the more we grow in true humility, the more we become aware of our shortcomings, our faults, and our sins. Yet, we can atone for those sins with alms-giving – by giving away part of our personal wealth – But this must be done to benefit the truly poor in our midst and throughout the world!

The last part of the Gospel selection should challenge us much more than most of us would care to admit. The poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind were disdained and thought to be cursed by the contemporaries of Jesus! Our society, today, has laws to help and protect those with disabilities. But there are no laws protecting the poor, as such. Moreover, we avoid the homeless, the unwashed, and the beggars whenever we possible can. We've also witnessed how rude some can be to service personnel – to those who must live on a minimum wage – and rely on tips to “make ends meet”!

The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us of just how blessed we are to have been redeemed and saved by Jesus. If we truly live a Christian life – If we are authentic disciples of Jesus – If we, wholeheartedly, try to follow the Gospel – Then we are already blessed beyond belief. For there will be a place for us in the Kingdom that Jesus has promised!

Nevertheless, part of the Gospel imperative is that we continue to re-evaluate all the blessings we enjoy! The gifts, the talents, the wealth, and the economic resources we possess must be used to benefit those who continue to struggle. We are brothers and sisters to everyone – And if our situations were reversed, we would welcome aid and assistance from others. We would also ask God's blessing upon anyone who helped us!

So, let us never lose heart. God has provided enough in our world for all His children. But God expects – and Jesus demands – that we care and provide for others.

Let us pray, today, that we continue to do so, if we have –

And may we quickly learn to do so, if we have not!

Amen.

August 28, 2022

Msgr. Russell G. Terra