

25TH SUNDAY – ORD. TIME (B) (September 18/19, 2021)

SEEK WISDOM FROM ABOVE

Looking around us and listening to what is going on in the world, the conclusion one may draw is that it is of no use to waste time on worshipping God. What we are experiencing now is no different from what happened at the time of the writer of Wisdom. At that time too, people thought that life was just what one experienced in his or her humanity. There was, or there is nothing to worry about in the future after life on earth.

That was why the ungodly people were plotting against the righteous. The life of the righteous was an obstacle to the ungodly, and they planned to do away with him. Their belief was that there would be no life after death so their idea was, "Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we shall be dead," (Isa.22:13;/ 1Cor.15:33). Then they said, "let us test what will happen at the end of his life".

Jesus was the righteous man who would be plotted against and be maltreated. That was what He told His disciples. But they did not understand and started discussing who would be the greatest after the death of their master. They were thinking about positions and power. But their master told them to be like little children. They should be servants as He was a servant; "For the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many, (Mk.10:45). St. Paul also told the Philippians to imitate Christ who humbled Himself to die a shameful death; (Phil.2:6-11).

Because of the love of worldly things, wealth, power, fame, and freedom, a true Christian is persecuted and rejected. He is considered a troublemaker in the society. Most of the time his beliefs are considered offensive, and sometimes he is treated as if he has no rights.

But St. James makes it clear to us that rather all the conflicts and killings in the world are as a result of evil. "Where jealousy and ambition exist, there will be disorder and vile practice". The wars and conflicts are due to our passions, and even we don't get what we pray for because we ask wrongly, to spend it on our passions.

He tells us that what will bring us peace is the wisdom from above. Wisdom from above 'is pure, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits.

This is contrary to earthly wisdom which creates conflicts, disorder, cheating, lies, lustful behaviors, and killings.

There is conflict and battle between good and evil within and outside us. Within us is the struggle to do what pleases God and avoiding evil. Outside is to fight against the humanist ideas and materialism surrounding us. We are confronted with all kinds of ideas and ideologies which make going to church or being a Christian an irrelevant thing to do. But we should not forget that evil will lose as Jesus conquered His adversaries. The ungodly said: "if the righteous man is God's son, He will help Him, and will deliver Him from the hand of His adversaries", and we know that it happened, and it will be the same for all who seek wisdom from above and follow Him.

Many of us are tempted to be on the side of the ungodly, because very often they appear to have the voice, and they are doing well in life. The Psalmist has this to say: "How good God is to Israel, to those who are pure of heart. Yet my feet came close to stumbling, my steps had almost slipped, for I was filled with envy of the proud when I saw the wicked prosper. For them there are no pains...their tongues dictate to the earth. So, the people turn to follow them and drink in all their words...How suddenly they come to their ruin, wiped out, destroyed by terrors", (Ps.73:1-19). Do we find ourselves in this situation? To be near God will be our happiness.

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Because of the love of worldly things, wealth, power, fame, and freedom, a true Christian is persecuted and rejected. He is considered a troublemaker in the society. Most of the time his beliefs are considered offensive, and sometimes he is treated as if he has no rights.

But St. James makes it clear to us that rather all the conflicts and killings in the world are as a result of evil. “Where jealousy and ambition exist, there will be disorder and vile practice”. The wars and conflicts are due to our passions, and even we don’t get what we pray for because we ask wrongly, to spend it on our passions.

He tells us that what will bring us peace is the wisdom from above. Wisdom from above ‘is pure, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits.

This is contrary to earthly wisdom which creates conflicts, disorder, cheating, lies, lustful behaviors, and killings.

There is conflict and battle between good and evil within and outside us. Within us is the struggle to do what pleases God and avoiding evil. Outside is to fight against the humanist ideas and materialism surrounding us. We are confronted with all kinds of ideas and ideologies which make going to church or being a Christian an irrelevant thing to do. But we should not forget that evil will lose as Jesus conquered His adversaries. The ungodly said: "if the righteous man is God's son, He will help Him, and will deliver Him from the hand of His adversaries", and we know that it happened, and it will be the same for all who seek wisdom from above and follow Him.

Many of us are tempted to be on the side of the ungodly, because very often they appear to have the voice, and they are doing well in life. The Psalmist has this to say: "How good God is to Israel, to those who are pure of heart. Yet my feet came close to stumbling, my steps had almost slipped, for I was filled with envy of the proud when I saw the wicked prosper. For them there are no pains...their tongues dictate to the earth. So, the people turn to follow them and drink in all their words...How suddenly they come to their ruin, wiped out, destroyed by terrors", (Ps.73:1-19). Do we find ourselves in this situation? To be near God will be our happiness.

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