

# The Living Word

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

10 October 2021

## First Reading Wis 7:7-11

*In comparison to wisdom, I held riches as nothing.*

I prayed, and understanding was given me;  
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came  
to me.

I esteemed her more than sceptres and  
thrones;

compared with her, I held riches as  
nothing.

I reckoned no priceless stone to be her  
peer,

for compared with her, all gold is a pinch  
of sand,

and beside her silver ranks as mud.

I loved her more than health or beauty,

preferred her to the light,

since her radiance never sleeps.

In her company all good things came to me,  
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 89:12-17. R. v.14**

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

1. Make us know the shortness of our life  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Lord, relent! Is your anger forever?  
Show pity to your servants. (R.)
2. In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Give us joy to balance our affliction  
for the years when we knew  
misfortune. (R.)
3. Show forth your work to your servants;  
let your glory shine on their children.  
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:  
give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

## Second Reading Heb 4:12-13

*The word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions  
of the heart.*

The word of God is something alive and  
active; it cuts like any double-edged sword  
but more finely: it can slip through the place  
where the soul is divided from the spirit,  
or joints from the marrow; it can judge the  
secret emotions and thoughts. No created  
thing can hide from him; everything is  
uncovered and open to the eyes of the one  
to whom we must give account of ourselves.

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 5:3

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Happy the poor in spirit;*

*the kingdom of heaven is theirs!*

*Alleluia!*

## Gospel Mk 10:17-30

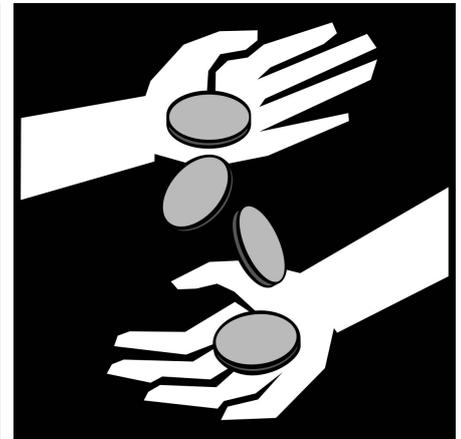
**or (shorter form Mk 10:17-27)**

*Go and sell whatever you have and come follow me.*

Jesus was setting out on a journey when  
a man ran up, knelt before him and put  
this question to him, 'Good master, what  
must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus  
said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No  
one is good but God alone. You know the  
commandments: You must not kill; You  
must not commit adultery; You must not  
steal; You must not bring false witness; You  
must not defraud; Honour your father and  
mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have  
kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus  
looked steadily at him and loved him, and  
he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and  
sell everything you own and give the money  
to the poor, and you will have treasure in  
heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face  
fell at these words and he went away sad,  
for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples,  
'How hard it is for those who have riches to  
enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples  
were astounded by these words, but Jesus  
insisted, 'My children,' he said to them,  
'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 a rich man to  
enter the kingdom of God.' They were more  
astonished than ever. 'In that case' they  
said to one another, 'who can be saved?'  
Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said,  
'it is impossible, but not for God: because  
everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked  
him. 'We have left everything and followed  
you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there  
is no one who has left house, brothers,  
sisters, father, children or land for my sake  
and for the sake of the gospel who will not  
be repaid a hundred times over, houses,  
brothers, sisters, mothers, children and  
land – not without persecutions – now in  
this present time and, in the world to come,  
eternal life.'



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The man in this story is described (at  
the end) as a man of great wealth, so  
that when Jesus says 'There is one  
thing you lack', it would have got his  
attention. But he learnt to his shock  
that what he lacked was the big-  
heartedness which would enable him  
to give up the security and status and  
power which came with his  
possessions.

Jesus was not satisfied with the  
wealthy man's minimalist agenda of  
keeping the commandments. He is  
just as dissatisfied with us. We each  
know what is holding us back from  
being a wholehearted follower of Jesus  
Christ. At some stage in our lives, we  
have known, or know now, or will  
know, what it is we are hanging onto:  
the one thing we cannot, will not, give  
up, the one thing that is so much part  
of our personality we cannot imagine  
what it would be like to get rid of it.

There is only one thing that can give  
you, give me, the courage and trust  
that is needed. In this Gospel story,  
and the only time in Mark, it says:  
'Jesus looked steadily at him and  
loved him.' This is not the glare of the  
critical eye but similar to the gaze of a  
parent on a newborn child, envisaging  
and encouraging a beautiful future for  
that child.

We could take a moment to pray,  
'Lord, I know there is something I must  
give up to enable me to follow you  
more nearly. Give me the courage  
which can only come from knowing  
that you gaze steadily at me and love  
me.'

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