

WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

Readings: Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:17-30

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 11, 2009

Word: **Commitment to community is faithfulness to Christ.**

Theme: **We are faithful to Christ when we renounce our worldliness and follow His word.** [Detachment]

Promise: ***“All things are possible for God.”*** (Mark 10:27b)
“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.” (Ps 90:12)

Reflection:

“Go sell what you have...” is the central point of our gospel reading this week. It conveys two things: a) “dispossession” from self, and b) “choice” between the inclination of the flesh or following Jesus at whatever cost.

The first reading tells us about making the right choices. A classic example is Solomon who, before he was anointed king, was asked by God what he most wanted to have. The question must have been to test Solomon’s priorities. Solomon’s answer, ***“I am still a child, and I am not yet able to govern such a great people; Lord, give me wisdom; give me a great wise heart that I may be able to distinguish good and evil,”*** (1K 3:4-15), pleased God. He could have asked the Lord for the sun and the moon, all the beautiful women in town, all the central banks in the world, but he did not. I believe Solomon did not ask for the world because he had the purest of intentions and motivation in answering the call of God. And so, God did not only bless him with what he asked for- wisdom - but all good things besides. Not only did he become wise, but also the richest man in the world even by today’s standards, surpassing the combined assets of all billionaires in this present time.

The second reading tells us that the word of God is like a double-edged sword that penetrates the deepest recesses of our being and uncovers the truth that is in Jesus, our King. It is “alive and active.” The word spoken by God does not return to Him without accomplishing its purpose. The book of Genesis tells it all. The word of God is also “incisive and penetrating.” A classic example is when I fall into sin, and get convicted. I am overwhelmed by the mystery of God’s forgiveness, mercy and love. The word, too, is like a “judge.” If I continue to be disobedient or do not follow the way of Jesus, my character and disposition will be greatly affected. Subsequently, my decisions will also be questionable and jeopardized. So what makes me refuse to listen or obey the word of God? Am I afraid to step out of my comfort zone? Is it because the word will disturb my peace? Is it because the word will question my recurring bad

habits, my negative anchor thoughts? If the word of God does not do all these, then the word of God is a clanging cymbal, which surely, it is not. It gives us the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit, such that in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves, God answers us through the power of His word.

In the Gospel reading, we are being challenged: **Whoever wants to follow Jesus must have the courage to give up all his possessions.** Jesus' answer to rich young man's question floored him. He did not anticipate it. Yes, surely, the rich young man was a good person and he probably continued to be good after he departed from Jesus. He neither oppressed nor "put one over" others. But he could not measure up to the challenge when asked to sell his all assets and give it to the poor. It can only be surmised that the rich young man did not really know or understand the word of God. If he did, his knowledge and understanding must have been superficial, shallow. Surely, Jesus did not want him to "sell" all his possessions as such, but God wanted him to detach himself from his attachments to the world. Furthermore, Jesus was inviting him to "share" his resources with the poor. Remember, God does not want us to become destitute or poor. In the book of John, God calls us His children. If we are indeed His children, and if we believe God is the Creator and our Father, then we are all "rich", for He owns the whole world, so why worry? This is the truth; for God's word is spirit and life. We can declare with conviction that we are rich mentally, emotionally, physically and financially!

As St Paul said, **"we ought to decrease, so that Jesus may increase in us."** This is the very foundation of the gospel today. We all need to empty ourselves of ourselves. We need to constantly "read, listen and act" on the word of God.

Suggested Personal Reflection Guide:

1. How often do we go before the Blessed Sacrament and, in the stillness of our hearts, "wait on the Lord"?
2. After "listening", and hearing the word of God in our heart, do we become disappointed, or saddened, like the rich young man, or are we refreshed and consoled?
3. Do we go to the prayer meeting just to "sweep under the rug" our issues and challenges in life, or do we go to worship & give thanks to our God?

Next Week's Daily Mass Reading Guide:

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| October 12, 2009 (Mon): | Rom 1 :1-7 ; Ps 98 :1-4 ; Lk 11 :29-32 |
| October 13, 2009 (Tue): | Rom 1:16-25; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 11:37-41 |
| October 14, 2009 (Wed): | Rom 2:1-11; Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 9; Lk 11:42-46 |
| October 15, 2009 (Thur): | Rom 3:21-30; Ps 130:1-6; Lk 11:47-54 |
| October 16, 2009 (Fri): | Rom 4:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11; Lk 12:1-7 |
| October 17, 2009 (Sat): | Rom 4:13, 16-18; Ps 105:6-9, 42-43; Lk 12:8-12 |

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"