

Twenty–Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time † Sunday, 10 October 2021



In England & Wales Cycle of Prayer: For Prisoners and their dependents, and for a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission

Keynote: Invited to follow and to become a disciple

Book of Wisdom 7: 7-11

What is it you want more than anything else in life? King Solomon compares life's riches with wisdom, and finds them all lacking. *'I esteemed her (wisdom) more than sceptres and thrones... I held riches as nothing ...for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand and beside her silver ranks as mud.'* Solomon prayed to God for understanding, and is granted the great gift of wisdom. Wisdom is spoken of as if it were a person and Christians have understood that this Wisdom is the very Person of God, they appreciate that the most desirable gift that God gives to us is the indwelling Spirit of God. With Solomon we can say *'I prayed, and understanding was given me; I entreated, and the Spirit of Wisdom came to me... in her company all good things came to me.'*

Responsorial Psalm 89 (90): 12-18

A community sings — reflecting on life and the blessing of God

Letter to the Hebrews 4: 12-13

'The Word of God is something alive and active, it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely.' Incisive, it penetrates the most hidden recesses of our being. We cannot hide from the searching gaze of God. *'Everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.'* There are no secrets with God!

Gospel according to Mark 10: 17-30

'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' asks the man who approaches Jesus. This is a question for each of us to ask ourselves as we search for meaning in life. Jesus replies with a reference to the moral code *'You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness...'* Like the rich man in this gospel we might say *'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.'* Jesus replies: *'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.'* Keeping the Commandments is but the start of our personal journey on the road to holiness.

The way of discipleship is sometimes difficult, seemingly at times, even impossible. The example of the camel passing through the eye of the needle is uncertain in meaning, it may refer to the small gate in the city the wall which would admit a man on foot, but would prevent his camel laden with merchandise, or a mounted armed man from entering the city after dark when the city gates were locked. Jesus' listeners would have understood just how difficult it was for the wealthy merchant to enter the City of God. To enter the city, the merchant has to leave his wealth behind. So we can't take our riches with us either. The apostle Peter asks *'What about us? We've left everything and followed you.'* Each of us might reflect on the obstacles, the baggage that encumbers us in our lives and that might hinder us from entering the Kingdom of God.