



## YEAR A – July 19, 2020

The first reading today, from the book of Wisdom, was inspired by God and written down 100 years before Jesus was born. The purpose of God's revelation in that book was to enkindle in the Jewish people the faith that some of them had lost. It was a time of turmoil and persecution. Evil seemed to be winning the day. Evil is a powerful force. It is still doing well in our own time. The book is a bridge between the Old and New Testament. Its Wisdom for the past is appropriate for our time too.

Many of our young people today, are being told that science has proven that we no longer need God. They are told that God did not create us, we created God. Frank Sheed said on one occasion, "To be out of touch with any part of reality is by definition to be insane." Insanity seems to be winning the day.

The Book of Wisdom reminds us (Chapter 12:16-19) that "... God shows his might when the perfection of his power is disbelieved." He gives us "...ground for hope and permits repentance for our sins.". But if there is no God, how can you ask God for forgiveness? Furthermore, why would you ask forgiveness from someone who doesn't exist? The rule of the day is, "If it feels good, do it." Some people live in darkness.

Jesus came into our world to dispel darkness. Dare we call it the darkness of sin. The responsorial psalm (Ps. 86) reminds us that the Lord is always willing to forgive, even when we move over to the dark side. He does not abandon us. God isn't finished with any of us; not yet.

St. Paul in chapter 8 of his letter to the Romans reminds us that the Holy Spirit is the one who helps us come to our senses when we stray. He is like a GPS that says, "Recalculating." He even helps us to pray when we are no longer able to pray because of the darkness.

The problem of evil has been with us since the beginning of time. Philosophers and theologians have wrestled with it for thousands of years. It has been suggested by some that this dimension of human life here on earth is one of many unlimited dimensions of Purgatory. It is an interesting thought in the realm of "speculation". The doctrine of Purgatory was a later development in the Catholic Church. It was addressed at the Council of Florence (1439) and the Council of Trent in Session XXV (1545-1563). The word "purgatory" is not in the bible.

Jesus addresses the question of evil in today's Gospel. He speaks about the kind of evil that affects the human soul at the deepest level of our being. Secular humanism and atheism are two modern day examples of that kind of moral evil. Jesus compares the world of good and the world of evil to a field where wheat and weeds are growing together. He reminds us that it is not our job to pull up the weeds, lest we destroy some of the wheat. He asks us to leave the weeds alone until harvest time and He will take care of separating the good from the bad.

So, what then are we to do with evil until "harvest time"? Check out God's answer to that question in (Romans 12:21). Are you willing to do that? God bless you.