

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE Eighth SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—March 3, 2019

First Reading — Sirach 27:4-7

⁴ When a sieve is shaken, the refuse remains; so a man's filth remains in his thoughts. ⁵ The kiln tests the potter's vessels; so the test of a man is in his reasoning. ⁶ The fruit discloses the cultivation of a tree; so the expression of a thought discloses the cultivation of a man's mind. ⁷ Do not praise a man before you hear him reason, for this is the test of men.

Responsorial Reading — Psalm 92:2-3, 13-16

¹ It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to thy name, O Most High; ² to declare thy steadfast love in the morning, and thy faithfulness by night...

¹² The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. ¹³ They are planted in the house of the LORD, they flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴ They still bring forth fruit in old age, they are ever full of sap and green, ¹⁵ to show that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Gospel Reading — Luke 6:39-45

³⁹ He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?" ⁴⁰ A disciple is not above his teacher, but every one when he is fully taught will be like his teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴² Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye. ⁴³ "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure produces evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading — *Sirach 27:4-7*

1. How do you feel when you read this passage?
2. What is the most helpful thing you have discovered to shape your mind and heart into Jesus' image?

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

3. How would you describe the "victory" in light of this week's reflection?

Gospel Reading — Luke 6:27-38

4. What is the difference between having good judgement and being judgmental?
5. How do we store treasures in our heart?
6. How do we empty our hearts of evil things that have been stored there, either purposefully or inadvertently?
7. Practically, what does "fruit" refer to in this passage?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.