

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

First Reading — Sirach 3:17-18, 21, 29-30 (Sirach 17-18, 20, 28-29 NAB) 17

My son, perform your tasks in meekness; then you will be loved by those whom God accepts. ¹⁸ The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favor in the sight of the Lord. ... ²¹ Seek not what is too difficult for you, nor investigate what is beyond your power. ...²⁹ The mind of the intelligent man will ponder a parable, and an attentive ear is the wise man's desire. ³⁰ Water extinguishes a blazing fire: so almsgiving atones for sin.

Responsorial Psalm PS 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11

R. (cf. 11b) **God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.**

The just rejoice and exult before God;
they are glad and rejoice.

Sing to God, chant praise to his name;
whose name is the LORD.

R. **God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.**

The father of orphans and the defender of widows
is God in his holy dwelling.

God gives a home to the forsaken;
he leads forth prisoners to prosperity.

R. **God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.**

A bountiful rain you showered down, O God,
upon your inheritance;
you restored the land when it languished;
your flock settled in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided it for the
needy.

R. **God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.**

Second Reading — Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24 18

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers entreat that no further messages be spoken to them. ...²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to a judge who is God of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks more graciously than the blood of Abel.

Gospel Reading — Luke 14:1, 7-14 1

One sabbath when he went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, they were watching him. ... ⁷ Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he marked how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸ "When you are invited by any one to a marriage feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest a more eminent man than you be invited by him; ⁹ and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹ For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." ¹² He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and

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you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

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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 3:17-18, 21, 29-30 (Sirach 17-18, 20, 28-29 NAB) 17

1. Why do you think God connects blessing to meekness and humility?

Second Reading — Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24 18

2. What part of this passage do you identify with when you come to God in reflection and prayer?

Gospel Reading — Luke 14:1, 7-14 1

3. How important to you is receiving recognition from others for things you have done well?

4. What is at the heart of a humble spirit? How would you define it?

5. What is the biggest fear you would have about living as a genuinely humble person?

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.