

REFLECTIONS ON THE SUNDAY LITURGIES

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

1st Rdg: Wis 7:7-11

Recall: Wisdom literature in Bible

Proverbs, Job Ecclesiastes, Sirach, Wisdom, scattered, some Psalms

Origins:

Tribal/clan traditions

Royal court “training” and traditions

Late: generally post-exilic, Book of Wisdom is the last – c. 50-30 BC

Themes: practical living, international flavor, relationship with God

Remember: deuterocanonical books

Tobit, Judith, 1 & 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach

Omitted by Jews and Protestants: only Greek text available

Our “pericope” (fancy technical word meaning “selection”)

Movement from “horizon” of family/father to nation/king

Nothing can match wisdom: all else is “sand” and “mire”

Wisdom’s “splendor” “never yields to sleep”

Though all else is nothing, all good things come to the wise

Response: Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 1-17

It might be good to read the whole Psalm to grasp its power

“Chiastic” structure, i.e. it is “X-shaped”

The opening lament begins at the beginning – and all is sadness

The close asks for: “wisdom” that all return to joy

2nd Rdg: Heb 4:12-13

Recall:

“Authenticity”: author is not Paul and unknown

Addressed to Jewish Christians, concerned with worship, Law

Major theme: priesthood of Jesus Christ

Our text

Conclusion of meditation on God’s revelation thru Prophets & Jesus

Promise of salvation

But faith is needed

w/o faith—threat and chastisement (cf. 4:2)

“word of God” –probably personified revealing word, not Jesus

“living and effective” – cf. “And God said....” “*magnalia Dei*”

“two-edged sword” image (ala RFK)

Gospel: Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

Concluding section on “Who is Jesus” and on discipleship: on riches

Vv 17-22 – the rich young man

Vv 23-27 – instruction to his disciples

Vv 28-31 – rewards for giving up riches

Rich young man

“Pharisaic” question: “What must I do?”

The Law

“Jesus, looking at him, loved him....”

Leave land, home, family – his “possessions”