

# **CELEBRATE SABBATH**

## **Sunday, Twenty Fifth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Somebody didn't wake up this morning, but you did.  
That's enough reason to stop complaining and be thankful.**

### **Wisdom 2:12, 17-20**

The Greek philosophical system appealed to many Jews. This became a threat to Jewish religion, morality and culture. The book of Wisdom, written in the mid-first century B.C., was meant to encourage and challenge the Jews to remain faithful to their heritage of faith, morals, values, culture and tradition.

The present excerpt speaks of the wicked whose thoughts are evil, and they plot evil against the just. The wicked are annoyed by the goodness, gentleness, patience, and truthfulness of the just. The author of the book invites us to cultivate wisdom and be cautious of the ways of the wicked.

**The good, the just and the wise person is an annoyance to the “worldly” and the wicked.  
The good person must cultivate that which is an annoyance to the wicked. To be good and wise may be a struggle but think of the alternative!**

### **Psalm 54**

The Psalmist cries from the depth of his heart for deliverance. Ruthless men have risen against him, he says. They are those who do not see God as he does, those outside the covenant and those who have fallen out of the covenant. The Psalmist faces similar problems as we do today in our cities and towns where we must face violence of various kinds. The Psalmist has turned to his “Savior God”. Who do we turn to?

**O God, by your name, save me,  
And by your might defend my cause.  
O God, hear my prayer;  
Hearken to the words of my mouth.....**

### **James 3:16-4:3**

James addresses the emergence of an unhealthy attitude in the first century Christian community. Some members thought of themselves as having special wisdom and separated themselves from those they thought were less wise and learned. James saw them as proud and ambitious rather than wise and learned. He says that true wisdom is from above, from God. Such wisdom is pure, peaceable, lenient, docile, and rich in sympathy and kind deeds. Wisdom is expressed, he says, in actions, attitudes and behaviors and not in some special knowledge. (Read James 3:13ff to get good insights into the meaning of this excerpt)

James challenges his readers to think about the source of their conflicts and disputes. He suggests that the source of the conflicts are within – inner conflicts.... projecting conflicting needs and cravings outward into community, instead of living by the wisdom from above.....wanting wrong things for wrong reasons.

**Cultivate justice, peace, charity, compassion - everything that comes from the wisdom of God.**

### **Mark 9:30-37**

Jesus and the disciples came down the mountain after a wonderful experience of glory and peace. He began to talk about being betrayed and about being put to death. Mark tells us that the disciples failed to understand what he was saying.

Jesus began teaching the disciple a new way of being.....way of serving, being at the service of God by serving people, even at great cost...even to death! Even when the disciples heard this urgent and difficult call, they began thinking about their honor, about occupying important position and about who among them was really important. Jesus challenged them to put themselves at the service of others and gave them a little child as an example...Mysteries have been revealed, not to the clever and the intellectual, but to the simple and humble. Heart is the home of the Gospel, not the intellect.

Unless you turn and become as children, you will not enter the kingdom of God. You are going in the wrong direction, not in the direction of the Kingdom. You are aiming at personal power, prestige, etc. which is the opposite of the Kingdom. Humility is the quality of a person who belongs in the kingdom. Child's simplicity, trust, dependence, innocence, purity are qualities of people of the kingdom.

**Reflect on turning toward the Kingdom.**

Jesus invited his disciples and he invites us today to be childlike and be willing to surrender in loving and generous service. He invites us to have a new vision of "greatness" as service, humility, and self-surrender, different from what the world seems to offer. Those of us, who choose to follow Jesus and be his disciples, must learn to redefine greatness as humility, service, and self-surrender.

**Change your vision: it is a privilege and honor and blessing to be the last and to serve the least. Be at the service of the "little ones", whoever they may be, the ones who cannot give you important positions, the ones who cannot make you important before others.....**

**True honor for those who follow the master, Jesus, lies in serving the "little ones" in the world! Be there, faithfully, and gratefully for the "little ones" of the world!**

**Saint of the Day, September 19 - St. Januarius and 12 other saints are remembered this day**

Little is known about the life of St. Januarius. He was born in Italy and was bishop of Benevento during the Diocletian persecution, around the year 305. Bishop Januarius went to visit two deacons and two laymen in prison. He was then also imprisoned along with his deacon and lector. Legend has it that Januarius and his companions were thrown to the bears in the amphitheater of Pozzuoli, but the animals failed to attack them. They were then beheaded. What is believed to be Januarius' blood is kept in Naples, as a relic. It liquifies and bubbles when exposed in the cathedral. Scientists have not been able to explain this miracle to date.

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