

Homily for 28th Sunday Year B

Prudence and wisdom are the gifts that we should ask of God, and not money, wealth, riches, fame, power and other worldly gifts. The first reading advises us to use the God-given virtue of prudence and to seek true wisdom in preference to vanishing realities like riches or political and social influence. Solomon pleaded with God to choose Wisdom before everything else. But when he accepted Wisdom, he received everything else along with her. It could be any of us pleading with God. The point of the reading today is to ask ourselves: "What do I ask of God?" For sure if we are poor and need money, we might ask money of God. God wants us to ask of Him what we really need. When we ask for what we really need, God listens to our prayer—even when God may not give us what we really need right when we want it! I asked for strength and God gave me difficulties to make me strong. I asked for wisdom and God gave me problems to solve. I asked for prosperity and God gave me brawn and brains to work. I asked for courage and God gave me dangers to overcome. I asked for patience and God placed me in situations where I was forced to wait. I asked for love and God gave me troubled people to help. I asked for favours and God gave me opportunities. I asked for everything so I could enjoy life. Instead, He gave me life so I could enjoy everything. I received nothing I wanted, I received everything I needed. The second reading continues this meditation on prudence and wisdom. The author of this Letter tells us that "the word of God is able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart." The spiritual life is a progress in knowing God's love for us and in letting go of all that might impede that love within us.

The Gospel today, tells the story of a very good young man who wants to follow Jesus and who has been deeply faithful to the teachings of God in his Jewish faith. But lacked one thing. Yes when Jesus asks the young man to give up all his wealth and come and follow him, then the young man goes away sad. *The parish church was badly in need of repair. So the pastor called a special meeting to raise funds. At the assembly, the pastor explained the need of an emergency fund for plastering the roof and supporting pillars and for carrying out other items of repair. He invited the congregation to pledge contributions. After a brief pause, the richest man in the parish, volunteered to give 50 pounds. Just as he sat down, a hunk of plaster fell from the ceiling on his head. He jumped up, looked terribly startled and said: "I meant to say 500 pounds." The congregation stood silent and stunned. Then a lone voice cried out from the back: "Oh Lord, hit him again!"*

You are lacking one thing." We all have something in our lives that serves as a major obstacle to happiness and peace. It may be anger, holding grudges, alcohol, drugs, lust, unhealthy interference in others affairs, over enthusiasm, apathy, lies, unfaithfulness, theft, or fraud. But letting go of all these require a decision. And decisions do not come easily. We pray, we struggle, we weep, we go back and forth. We weigh things. It involves a change of priorities, a new way, valuing things, an interest in the riches that are stored in heaven, "where moth cannot consume, nor rust corrode." What we cannot do on our own, we can do with the Lord's help. Let us invite God into our lives and into our efforts to face and remove that one obstacle to holiness. So, we may fee deep down in the core of our being there is peace, and there is joy, because we know that we are doing our best to carry out God's perfect will in our lives. "Lord Jesus, help us to be aware of the true nature of discipleship and give us the Spirit to surrender fully to you as you show us. Amen".