

## **28<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time Oct 11, 2009 Year B**

**Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Hb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30**

We can consider this Sunday's readings as calling us to reflect on our human condition. This is something that we are prodded to do by the Word of God, as the famous reading from Hebrews says. We could actually read the larger context of this passage and see that it speaks about the effort it takes to enter into God's "Rest," and how we can take heart after Jesus has opened up for us a sure access to God's very throne in heaven.

The reading from the Book of Wisdom extols the excellence of wisdom over riches. For us, Jesus is Wisdom incarnate, the Way to God, the living out of how God wants us to live, trusting Him and loving Him above all things, and our fellow humans as ourselves, with God's own love which has been poured out in our hearts. This is the path to happiness, this is what corresponds to God's wise intention for us when he created us. The psalm is a meditation on our fragility, on how our hard toil can seem futile, ending with the hope that God will, grant us some rest or refreshment after many hard years.

This wisdom was lost on the rich man in the gospel, the single case of refusal to follow Christ's direct call. The man (he is "young" in Mt 19:20) means well enough: he addresses Jesus politely (if not with flattery), he is interested in eternal life, he says he has kept the commandments since his youth (note, however, that in Mk 10:19 Jesus refers to a commandment which is not in the Decalogue, to wit, keeping back the wages of a laborer, Dt 24:14; see also Jms 5:4). Jesus then seemingly reads into the man's heart with love, and intuits what he lacks: real wisdom, a real decision to love God and neighbor instead of his many riches. The polite optimism of the man gives way to sadness and he went away from Jesus, refusing his call. In the version in Lk 18:23, he becomes sad but doesn't leave, and instead must listen to Jesus' words about the camel and the eye of the needle . . . God's greatest competition is money, Mt 6:24; Lk 16:13 (Q saying).