



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings speak of wisdom. They don't see wisdom as a personal accomplishment. They see it as a gift to benefit the community. Knowledge is like the rings of water created by a rock. It moves ever outward from the one to the many. Wisdom is the birthright of the community.

The book of wisdom is often associated with King Solomon. In the first reading, the author speaks not of Solomon, but rather of a wise and good king as the ideal of human perfection. Wisdom is preferred to wealth and beauty. This king promotes the common good through the gift of wisdom.

The responsorial psalm is a community cry for help. It contrasts human life to divine eternity. It considers God's anger as a result of human sinfulness. It asks God for the ability to cope in life. Wisdom of heart describes living in such a way as to balance our relationships with God and others. It emphasizes the harmony between God and the community. In wisdom the community experiences God's presence.

In the second reading, wisdom is narrowed down to the Word of God. God's word is sole arbiter of all human actions.

In the Gospel, Jesus' first reply to the rich man refers to the commandments which look to the common good. The second reply is a more demanding form of wisdom. Wealth can be an obstacle to reaching this higher level of wisdom. Everlasting life means giving up everything that distracts us from following Jesus. Selling possessions to give to the poor liberates us for service to the community.