

English

28th Sunday of the Year B

First Reading **Wisdom 7:7-11**

I prayed, and understanding was given me; I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones; compared with her, I held riches as nothing. I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer, for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand, and beside her silver ranks as mud. I loved her more than health or beauty, preferred her to the light, since her radiance never sleeps. In her company all good things came to me, at her hands riches not to be numbered.

Second Reading **Hebrews 4:12-13**

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any doubleedged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

Gospel **Mark 10:17-27**

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, "Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother." And he said to him, "Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days." Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, "There is one thing you lack.

Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth. Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, "My children," he said to them "how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

They were more astonished than ever. "In that case" they said to one another "who can be saved?" Jesus gazed at them. "For men" he said "it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God".

Meditation

"Good Teacher, what must I do to share in everlasting life?" The anonymous man of today's gospel expresses the ageless human hunger for life. He stands for all of us. This man takes it for granted that eternal life is the fruit of a virtuous existence. He has always observed the commandments.

He is unwittingly in a good position to be saved. But this man is still lacking something. It might even be said that he is lacking everything. We have given nothing to God if we are not ready to give it all. The love of Christ calls us to a total gift which is concretised in the call, "Come, follow me."

This is a question neither of morality nor of asceticism, but of commitment to Jesus.

It is no longer a question of "doing more", of distinguishing "precept" from "counsel".

To follow Christ means all or nothing, your money or your life.