

St. Benedict Church Bible Study

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 129

Reading 1

Wis 9:13-18b

13 For who knows God's counsel, or who can conceive what the Lord intends?

14 For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and uncertain our plans.

15 For the corruptible body burdens the soul and the earthly tent weighs down the mind with its many concerns.

16 Scarcely can we guess the things on earth, and only with difficulty grasp what is at hand; but things in heaven, who can search them out?

17 Or who can know your counsel, unless you give Wisdom and send your holy spirit from on high?

18 Thus were the paths of those on earth made straight, and people learned what pleases you, and were saved by Wisdom.

Reading 2

Phmn 9-10, 12-17

8 Therefore, although I have the full right in Christ to order you to do what is proper,

9 I rather urge you out of love, being as I am, Paul, an old man, and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus.

10 I urge you on behalf of my child Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment,

12 I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.

13 I should have liked to retain him for myself, so that he might serve* me on your behalf in my imprisonment for the gospel,

14 but I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that the good you do might not be forced but voluntary.

15 Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while, that you might have him back forever,

16 no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother, beloved especially to me, but even more so to you, as a man and in the Lord.

17 So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me.

Gospel

Lk 14:25-33

25 Great crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and addressed them,

26 “If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

28 Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?

29 Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him

30 and say, ‘This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.’

31 Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops?

32 But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms.

33 In the same way, everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.