

Readings for 22nd September 2024. Trinity 17

Wisdom of Solomon 1.16 – 2.1,12-22

Life as the Ungodly See It

¹⁶ But the ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company.

2. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, 'Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades.

¹²' Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training.

¹³ He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord.

¹⁴ He became to us a reproof of our thoughts;

¹⁵ the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange.

¹⁶ We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father.

¹⁷ Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life;

¹⁸ for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.

¹⁹ Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance.

²⁰ Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected.'

Error of the Wicked

²¹ Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them,

²² and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls;

Psalm 54

Prayer for Vindication

To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites went and told Saul, 'David is in hiding among us.'

¹ Save me, O God, by your name,
and vindicate me by your might.

² Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

³ For the insolent have risen against me,
the ruthless seek my life;
they do not set God before them.

Selah

⁴ But surely, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.

⁵ He will repay my enemies for their evil.
In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

⁶ With a freewill-offering I will sacrifice to you;
I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.

⁷ For he has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

James 3.13 – 4.3,7-8a

Two Kinds of Wisdom

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Friendship with the World

4

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something

and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Mark 9.30-37

Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Who Is the Greatest?

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'