

livingtheword

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Hearing and Living the Sunday Readings

Reading 1 [Wis 11:22-12:2](#)

Before the LORD the whole universe is as a grain from a balance or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook people's sins that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned.

And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O LORD and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things!

Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O LORD!

Reading 2. [2 Thes 1:11-2:2](#)

Brothers and sisters:

We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.

We ask you, brothers and sisters, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling with him, not to be shaken out of your minds suddenly, or to be alarmed either by a "spirit," or by an oral statement, or by a letter allegedly from us to the effect that the day of the Lord is at hand.

Reflection Process / Questions

- **10 mins Reading** - underline a word or idea that strikes you
 - **10 mins Writing** - write what you have heard, write your response to a reflection question(s) that attracts your attention
 - **10 mins Sharing / Praying** - share with a friend or pray to God about livingtheword you have heard.
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- The writer of the book of Wisdom is sharing the special insights of Jewish thinking to a society heavily influenced by Greek thinking. Greek thought promoted dualism. The human body was evil and continually dragged the mind and spirit down to earth. The result was a thinking and feeling that there was a large gap between humanity and God. Too large to be bridged! What do you think?
 - Have you ever pondered how magnificent God is in creating and sustaining all of 'creation'? Have you ever created something and felt a deep connection to it because it is 'your creation'? If the same is true for God, what does this mean for God's relationship to you personally?
 - 1 and 2 Thessalonians are the earliest letters we have in the New Testament. A fear had taken over the community that the final 'day of the lord' was here. Some had left their jobs. Have you had an unsettling faith experience which shook your mind and caused you 'alarm'? How did you cope? Did you choose to walk through it or around it?

Gospel [Lk 19:1-10](#)

At that time, Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature.

So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

- The Gospel of Luke continues to share with us the relationship that Jesus and God has with 'tax collectors' (who were considered the greatest sinners and outcasts because they taxed Jewish people and gave this money to the occupying Roman soldiers and government).
- Zacchaeus was the Chief Tax Collector of the large city of Jericho. He would have been extremely wealthy. And yet he does something extremely humbling - he climbs a tree. He publicly admits he is short in front of the large crowd. He exposes himself to ridicule in his effort of seeking Jesus. Life changing meetings with Jesus are often the result of extraordinary actions by gospel characters. What made Zacchaeus climb the tree? Instead of climbing the tree, what action could you take to get closer to Jesus? What is the risk or fear that could stop you? Who could give you support or advice?
- For Jesus, seeking out and saving the lost was not an 'idea' but a lived reality. To the greatest 'sinner' in Jericho, he says: Zacchaeus.... today I must stay at your house. What does this teach us about Jesus' understanding of his mission? What does this teach us about the mission of the Church today? What conversion needs to go on within you to live out this mission of the Church?
- Salvation is not something that happens in the far distant future. Jesus says it happens 'today' for Zacchaeus with his actions in response to Jesus. He gives half his property to the poor and promises to pay the full price of compensation that Roman law states (four times the original amount). Living salvation 'today' is radical. A daily response to the love of God revealed in Jesus and his life-style challenging gospel message. The one who was outside is 'inside'. Can you be at home in this inclusive community of the Church? What will you do if a modern 'tax collector' does not 'repent'?
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?