

SUNDAY: 29 August 2010 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st reading: **Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29**

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11**

2nd reading: **Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a**

Gospel: Lk 14:1, 7-14

Scripture: Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹Now it happened that on a Sabbath day he had gone to share a meal in the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. ⁷He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, ⁸ 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, ⁹and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you will have to go and take the lowest place. ¹⁰No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." Then, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. ¹¹ For everyone who raises himself up will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be raised up.' ¹² Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relations or rich neighbours, in case they invite you back and so repay you. ¹³ No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; ¹⁴ then you will be blessed, for they have no means to repay you and so you will be repaid when the upright rise again.'

Meditation: What is true humility and why should we make it a characteristic mark of our life and action? True humility is not feeling bad about yourself, or having a low opinion of yourself, or thinking of yourself as inferior to others. True humility frees us from preoccupation with ourselves, whereas a low self-opinion tends to focus our attention on ourselves. Humility is truth in self-understanding and truth in action. Viewing ourselves truthfully, with sober judgment, means seeing ourselves the way God sees us (Psalm 139:1-4). A humble person makes a realistic assessment of himself or herself without illusion or pretense to be something he or she is not. The humble regard themselves neither smaller nor larger than they truly are. True humility frees us to be our true selves and to avoid despair and pride. A humble person does not have to wear a mask or put on a facade in order to look good to others, especially to those who are not really familiar with that person. The humble are not swayed by accidentals, such as fame, reputation, success, or failure.

Humility is the queen or foundation of all the other virtues because it enables us to view and judge ourselves correctly, the way God sees us. Humility leads to true self-knowledge, honesty, realism, strength and dedication to give ourselves to something greater than ourselves. Humility frees us to love and serve others selflessly, for their sake, rather than our own. Paul the Apostles, gives us the greatest example and model of humility in the person of Jesus Christ, *who emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, ... who humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:7-8)*. The Lord Jesus gives grace to those who seek him humbly. Do you want to be a servant as Jesus served?

www.rc.net/wcc/readings/aug29.htm

Question for Community Faith Sharing:

1. Pride can cloud our judgment and make us to be unloving towards our brothers and sister. Am I aware that pride can manifest in many forms in our life, such as, spiritual perfection, having gifts and qualifications, popularity, etc?
2. What drive us to do things in our daily life, our own popularity or God's will?
3. What will our reaction when after so much sacrifice and difficulties doing service in Church, we get critics instead of appreciation?

Prayer:

"Lord Jesus, you became a servant for my sake to set me free from the tyranny of sin, selfishness, and conceit. Help me to be humble as you are humble and to love freely and graciously all whom you call me to serve."