

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — February 16, 2020

## First Reading — Sirach 15:15-20

<sup>15</sup>If you will, you can keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice. <sup>16</sup>He has placed before you fire and water: stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. <sup>17</sup>Before a man are life and death, and whichever he chooses will be given to him. <sup>18</sup>For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; <sup>19</sup>his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows every deed of man. <sup>20</sup>He has not commanded any one to be ungodly, and he has not given any one permission to sin.

## Responsorial Psalm PS 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

R. (1b) **Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

Blessed are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.

Blessed are they who observe his decrees, who seek him with all their heart.

R. **Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

You have commanded that your precepts be diligently kept.

Oh, that I might be firm in the ways of keeping your statutes!

R. **Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

Be good to your servant, that I may live and keep your words.

Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law.

R. **Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

Instruct me, O LORD, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them.

Give me discernment, that I may observe your

law

and keep it with all my heart.

R. **Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

## Second Reading — I Corinthians 2:6-10

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

<sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glorification. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him," <sup>10</sup>God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

## Gospel Reading — Matthew 5:17-34, 37

<sup>17</sup>"Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>21</sup>"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something

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against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; <sup>26</sup>truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. <sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. <sup>33</sup>“Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ... <sup>37</sup>Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

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### INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

### Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### INVITATION TO REFLECT

### INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

#### First Reading — Sirach 15:15-20

1. What hope for living a righteous life do you see in this passage?

#### Second Reading — I Corinthians 2:6-10

2. In what way(s) is God's wisdom available to us?

#### Gospel Reading — Matthew 5:17-34, 37

3. What do you think Jesus meant by "fulfill" the law and commands of God?
4. Explain the difference between the commands Jesus quoted, and the examples he used to explain them.
5. What is the difference between obeying the spirit of the Law and obeying the letter of the Law?

### INVITATION TO ACT

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

### CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*