

## Commentary on the Readings for October 23, 2022

### The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The subject of the Readings for today is **Humility** just as it was a few weeks ago (September 4), so why would the Church bring this subject up again? Because **humility** is something that almost everyone thinks they have and, unfortunately, most of us do not. So what is humility? Let us go through the readings and see examples of this great, but seldom understood, virtue.

In the **First Reading** from ***the Book of Sirach (35:12-14, 16-18)***, the writer is expounding some of the many divine qualities of God. Please notice the examples of certain people that God hears and helps, e.g., the weak, the oppressed, the deaf, widows, etc. These are not necessarily poor people; rather, they are those who approach God in prayer with humility, recognizing their needs and their dependence upon God for help.

The **Responsorial Psalm** is **(34:2 3, 17-19, 23)**. The Psalmist is also giving us many qualities of God that are related to those who seek help from the Lord, recognizing their own faults and failures and taking refuge in Him.

The **Second Reading** is from ***St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (4:6-8, 16-18)***. The time of the writing of this letter is near the end of St. Paul's life. He is in prison in Rome and recognizes that the end is near. He has already been saved from one execution ("rescued from the lion's mouth"). Here he is pouring out his thoughts to Timothy about his ministry over the years and his situation now. He rejoices that he has served God well and, because of his close relationship with Jesus Christ, God is pleased with him. Therefore, the fate that is coming will only bring Him into heaven sooner. This is the ultimate in humility.

The **Gospel Reading** is taken from the ***Gospel of Luke (18:9-14)***. It is so easy for the healthy and wealthy to be pleased with themselves and to look down upon those who haven't "made it" in this life. But, listen to what Jesus says in this parable. He is not condemning wealth or social status or good health. Rather, he is saying that we must recognize that all of these things ultimately came from God in some way or another and that we should constantly give thanks to Him for His mercy and goodness. Recognizing and accepting this fact about ourselves is the essence of humility.

We must try to understand the spiritual (or Biblical) meaning of **Humility**. It does not mean to demean or belittle oneself. Instead, humility means to recognize who and what we are in the eyes of God and who God is in our life. Then we must learn to recognize that all of our possessions, talents and good qualities are God's gift to us. ***What we do with them is our gift to God!*** No one is a "self-made" person. We all arrived at where we are today with the help of others. So, the question that we might ask ourselves is "***Have I given thought or thanks to those who have helped me along the way?***" Something to think about during your Prayer Time this week! **MFB**