

## **Sunday Readings Reflections**

### **8/28/2016**

#### **Reading 1 Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29**

This reading is from the Book of Sirach, a collection of teachings on how to live in a manner approved by God. The first two verses advise us to be humble, even when others praise us to the skies. Humble people do not deny their gifts and talents. Humble people recognize that their gifts and talents come from God. The last two verses encourage us to listen to those who are wise, and to be generous to those who are in need.

#### **Reading 2 Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a**

Today's second reading describes a dramatic contrast between the old and new covenants. When God made the covenant with the Israelites on Mount Sinai, it was a majestic and even terrifying event. But our covenant with God in Jesus is characterized by its intimacy. The risen Christ draws all believers up to Mount Zion, a symbol of God's kingdom, or reign. There, all the angels and saints are gathered in a joyful celebration of love and friendship.

#### **Gospel Luke 14:1, 7-14**

Have you noticed how often Jesus talks about parties and dinners? He wants us to be prepared for that great feast that is the fullness of God's reign. In today's gospel, Jesus prepares us with some good advice about ways to be a guest and ways to be a host. As God's guests in this world, we should act humbly and remember that we are always in the presence of Someone greater than we are. As hosts of God's people, we should offer hospitality to those who cannot reward us.

In the custom of his time and place, Jesus exaggerates to make a point. We do not have to leave out our friends and families. But neither should we leave out the poor and disabled.

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