

Sunday Readings Reflections

9/4/2016

Reading 1 [Wisdom 9:13-18b](#)

Today's reading from the Book of Wisdom reminds us of our limitations as human beings. By ourselves, we cannot understand God and God's ways. We have enough trouble trying to figure out the world around us! But if we have the gift of God's spirit of wisdom, we can learn to walk in God's ways. We can grow in our knowledge of God's intentions for us.

Reading 2 [Philemon 9-10, 12-17](#)

The letter of Paul to his friend Philemon is one of warmth and beauty. Paul is making an appeal for Onesimus, Philemon's slave who has run away to be with Paul in prison. The apostle has not only converted Onesimus but has become close friends with him. Now he asks Philemon to treat Onesimus not as a lowly slave but as a brother in Christ.

Gospel [Luke 14:25-33](#)

Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem when he stops to give this no-nonsense talk to a great crowd of people who want to follow him. Like any rabbi of his time, Jesus uses exaggeration to command attention. He wants to get the point across that he must be at the center of his followers' lives. Jesus insists that no one can be his disciple who does not consider him before family or self. The disciple who thinks he or she can serve Jesus part-time is foolish. She is like a builder who has no idea how much it will cost to complete a tower. He like a king who goes to battle with no idea how many troops his enemy has. The disciple must be willing to renounce or give up everything out of love for Christ.

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