

## **Sunday Readings Reflections of 9/20/15**

### **Reading 1 Wisdom 2:12, 17-20**

When a person always does what is right, he or she can become the target of sharp criticism. The author of Wisdom describes "the just one" who suffers the insults of the wicked. Because he pointed out their wrongdoing, the wicked are determined to make the just one suffer. They sarcastically predict that even if they condemn him to death, God will take care of him.

Christians see in this reading a description of Jesus. Even when he was insulted, tortured, and put to death, he did not strike back at the wicked. He prayed that his Father would forgive them. In doing so, Jesus gave us an example of how to entrust ourselves to God's care especially in times of trouble or persecution.

### **Reading 2 James 3:16—4:3**

In this reading, we hear the voice of a just one who spells out the consequences of sinful behavior. James encourages Christians to show by their actions that they have "wisdom from above." The wise do not act out of jealousy or selfish striving after their own way. They are peace loving, gentle, forgiving, and kind. They understand that by working for peace they help bring about justice in the world.

By praying daily for the wisdom from above, we will be people of peace and justice. We will do our part to rid the world of war and violence of every kind.

### **Gospel Mark 9:30-37**

When people suspect that something bad is about to happen, fear sometimes causes them to stick their heads in the sand and pretend that everything will remain the same. When Jesus tried to tell his disciples about how he would soon suffer and die, they were afraid to ask him any questions. They acted as though everything would stay the same. They even argued about who was the greatest among them. So Jesus corrected them by saying that whoever wanted to be the greatest would have to be the servant of all.

Embracing a small child, Jesus told the disciples, "Whoever welcomes a child such as this welcomes me." He wanted them to understand that they were to be willing servants with the childlike qualities of innocence, honesty, and lack of pretension. Jesus identified himself with the innocent child who is completely dependent on God.

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