

**“<sup>2</sup>They (the wise ones) delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.” (Ps. 1:2)**

**Prov. 31:10-31** “<sup>25</sup>*She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future. <sup>26</sup>When she speaks her words are wise and she gives instructions with kindness.*” (Prov. 31:25-26)  
The writer of The Proverbs has embodied wisdom with a female persona. The person who is wise is: (1) a good worker, (2) wise in the use of money, (3) wise in the use of time, (4) a wise counselor, (5) wisely plans for the future, (6) respects their spouse and (7) honors God. Both men and women can find qualities to emulate in this description, though it is not intended to be a complete list for which we should strive. If any person would be possible to acquire all these qualities, that person would be a truly wonderful person. Interestingly, wisdom allows all persons to deal with any challenge that faces them whether it involves money, time, planning, relationships or whatever. Wisdom, properly applied, infuses a sense of confidence that will lead us through any difficulty in our lives. True wisdom comes from a committed relationship with God! The source of wisdom to solve any problem is available at any time, on any day; available simply by calling upon God through prayer.

**Psalm 1** “<sup>1</sup>*Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers...<sup>4</sup>But the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.*” (Ps. 1:1, 4) This psalm separates people into two groups; ethical people & ungodly people. The psalm also illustrates the results of both lifestyles. It comments on the attributes that drag the easily swayed person down into the quagmire. The theme of this psalm is as big as the whole Bible. Live righteously and avoid those who bring temptation. God is personally involved in the lives of all who willingly follow His commands of righteousness. Great joy is available to any who delight in serving the Lord. “<sup>3</sup>*They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.*” Then the psalmist warns the ungodly. “<sup>5</sup>*They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners have no place among the godly.*” How can it be easier to understand than that? Follow God and enjoy great blessings. Serve Satan and face eternal judgment. The choice is obvious. Heaven or Hell?

**Mark 9:30-37** “<sup>30</sup>*Leaving that region, they traveled through Galilee. Jesus didn't want anyone to know He was there, <sup>31</sup>for He wanted more time with His disciples and teach them.*” (Mark 9:30-31)

Previously, we read about the value of being a wise student of God's goodness. Now, we see Jesus aimed at training His closest disciples to prepare them for the ministry that would soon be on their shoulders. “<sup>32</sup>*They didn't understand what He was saying, however, they were afraid to ask Him what He meant.*” (Mark 9:32) Jesus knew that as they headed toward Jerusalem, each step was a bit closer to the end of His life and the disciples would be on their own in a volatile and dangerous world. The psalmist described a tree planted by a stream to receive the refreshment required to thrive through drought and difficult times. The comparison with our lives is valid. We need to be revitalized from the wells of goodness that flows from God's blessings. Wisdom, like flowing water can renew us to live as Jesus taught. Soon enough, the disciples learned what Jesus meant.

**James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a** “<sup>17</sup>*The wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.*” (James 3:17) Wisdom is not a matter of the education level you have acquired. True wisdom can only be measured by the depth of a person's character. It is a reflection of the Lord's guidance in your life. The wise person seeks to live following God's design for ourselves and the people in our influence. Humility and application of wisdom are reflections of God's guidance in our lives and a willingness to relate to others as Jesus has taught. The Scriptures teach the values of wisdom applied to our life experiences. Live and learn. It can be a cruel world. We need all the help we can get. It is a mystery why so many people choose to reject God's guidance through life's struggles. Those who choose to reject God's messages of goodness are doing so at their own peril. Eternity is a long time!

**“<sup>13</sup>If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.” (James 3:13)**

**Next week's lectionary (Sep. 29): Esth. 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 124; Mark 9:38-50; James 5:13-20**