

## Homily 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A 2023

There are four classes of wisdom, according to St James 3:15-17: **earthly wisdom**, **intellectual wisdom**, **devilish wisdom** and the **wisdom from above**. He explained that earthly wisdom was the same as common sense. What about the Wisdom from above, from God:

*A wise woman who was traveling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveller who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveller saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation. The traveller left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime. But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman.*

*"I've been thinking," he said, "I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me something more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone.*

The **Wisdom of God** includes Purity, Peace, Gentleness, Forgiveness, Goodness, Generosity, and Integrity.

While **Earthly Wisdom** can help you: solve problems in your environment, make intelligent decisions, know Good and Wrong, make good use of your time and money, run away from anything that will harm you, create inventions and innovations and manage other people and things around you. While its disadvantages are: it is limited to time, distance and space, prone to error, can easily be deceived, can puff up, is sensual and can fail.

**Pope Francis says:** *The wisdom the Holy Spirit grants is the grace of being able to see things through God's eyes. It is seeing the world, situations, problems, everything, with the eyes of God. And obviously this derives from intimacy with God, from the relationship of a son with his Father. When we are in communion with the Lord, it is through the Holy Spirit that our heart transforms and we are able to perceive all its warmth and preferences.*

*... The heart of the man who is wise in this way has the taste, the flavour of God. We have the Holy Spirit inside us, in our hearts; we can listen to it, or we can choose not to listen to it. If we listen to the Holy Spirit, He will teach us this way of wisdom, and will give us the wisdom to see through God's eyes, to hear with God's ears, to love with the heart of God, to judge with God's judgment. This is the wisdom that the Holy Spirit gives us, and all of us can have this."*

A potpourri of reflections on wisdom:

- "The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool." William Shakespeare.
- "It is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt of it." Maurice Switzer
- "When someone loves you, the way they talk about you is different. You feel safe and comfortable." Jess C. Scott
- "Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." Aristotle
- "The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing." Socrates
- "Knowing others is intelligence; knowing yourself is true wisdom. Mastering others is strength; mastering yourself is true power." Lao Tzu
- "Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens"
- "Wisdom cannot be imparted. Wisdom that a wise man attempts to impart always sounds like foolishness to someone else ... Knowledge can be communicated, but not wisdom. One can find it, live it, do wonders through it, but one cannot communicate and teach it." Hermann Hesse

- . . . and finally ***“Wonder is the beginning of wisdom.”*** Socrates

**A spiritual Leader was dying.** His disciples had gathered around his bed praying that his last journey be divine and pleasant.

They wanted to give him warm milk to drink but he declined.

One of the disciples took the glass back to the kitchen and decided to add some brandy considering it good for health. He poured a generous amount into the warm milk.

Back at Spiritual Leader's bed, they lifted his head gently and held the glass to his lips. The very frail man drank a little, then a little more, and before they knew it, he had finished the whole glass down to the last drop.

As his eyes brightened, the disciples thought it would be a good opportunity to have one last talk with their Spiritual Leader. Sir....! the disciples asked earnestly, "Please, give us some of your wisdom before you leave us."

He raised himself up very slowly in the bed on one elbow, looked at them and said,

**"Don't sell that cow!!"**