

BIBLE STUDY
AUGUST 1 AND 4, 2022

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 18: 6-9

Luke 12: 32-48

Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19

1. Wisdom 18: 6-9

- The Book of Wisdom was written about 50 years before Christ. The author is an unknown person who lived in Alexandria, Egypt. He wrote in Greek to Jews of the diaspora to strengthen their faith in tough times of persecution. To strengthen their faith, he calls upon popular themes of his day: the beauty of creation that reveals the majesty of God; the glorious events of the Exodus, God's mercy, the worthlessness of idolatry, and the justice of God that punishes the wicked and bless the just. Our passage comes from a section of the book that mediates upon God's special providence during the Exodus.
- **V. 6:** Moses had told the people to be ready and how to prepare the Passover lamb and place its blood on the door lintel to safeguard the family from the angel of death. He instructed them to be ready to travel. This was to keep their courage strong by knowing that God was about to save them.
- **V. 7:** The people expected that God would punish the Egyptians for Pharaoh's stubbornness and reward the Israelites for their faithfulness and the promise that God made to them through the patriarchs.
- **V. 8:** With the same power that God punished the Egyptians, he saved the Israelites.
- **V. 9:** The Israelites were celebrating the Passover meal as God had instructed them. They were singing the songs of their forebears.

2. Luke 12: 32-48

- **V. 32:** Do not fear. God the Father will give us the Kingdom of God.
- **V. 33:** Do not put trust and importance on material things but help others with your possessions and that will store up treasure for you in heaven that cannot be stolen or destroyed.
- **V. 34:** What is our treasure: Is it material things or the things of God? Our heart will be focused on whatever we consider of treasure.
- **V. 35:** Be prepared and be watchful. Be ready
- **V. 36:** Be ready just as servants who await their master's return and who are ready to open the door at once.

- **V. 37:** If we are ready to welcome the Lord whenever he comes, he will wait on us. There will be a reversal of roles. The Lord who came not to be served but to serve.
- **V. 38:** We do not know when he is coming. If we are prepared whenever he comes, it will go well for us. We will be blessed.
- **V. 39:** Being ready and watchful can prevent our house from being broken into. A thief takes advantage of a person being unprepared.
- **V. 40:** Jesus will return when we least expect. So, we always got to be ready and watchful so that we will not be surprised.
- **V. 41:** Peter wants to know if this instruction is meant just for the leaders of the community or for everyone. Jesus is saying that the leaders of the people will bear greater responsibility.
- **V. 42:** The one in charge must be faithful and prudent and carry out his/her duties with diligence.
- **V. 43-44:** If he/she is faithful and does what the Lord asks, the Lord will give him/her even greater responsibility.
- **V. 45-46:** Luke's community is reassessing their thought that Jesus' return would be imminent in their lifetime. However, they must still be diligent and faithful. If a person takes advantage of the delay and does not carry out the Lord's instructions, the Lord will punish him/her severely upon his return.
- **V. 47:** The one who knows more will bear more responsibility and receive a more severe punishment.
- **V. 48:** The one who is ignorant will bear less responsibility and merit less punishment. Leaders of the community have more responsibility, and more is expected of them.

3. Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19

- **Chapter 11:** In this chapter the author is recalling the persons of the Old Testament who were models of faith and trust in God. They did not waver in the faith despite many hardships, persecutions, and lengthy delays.
- **V. 1:** Faith is the realization (assurance) of what is hoped for and the evidence (conviction) of things not seen. Faith trusts in the promises of God in which we hope and "sees with the eyes of faith" the things we cannot yet see.
- **V. 2:** The ancients=our ancestors were well versed in faith.
- **V. 8:** Abraham is our father in faith. He answered the Lord's call to leave his native land and go to a land he did not know out of faith and trust.
- **V. 9:** Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were wanderers, pilgrims. The promise to Abraham was also extended to his children.
- **V. 10:** Abraham put his trust in God and what God promised not in passing things. he was not distracted.

- **V. 11:** Even though it was impossible for him and Sarah to have a child, he still believed because he trusted that God was trustworthy.
- **V. 12:** Because of his faith, God fulfilled his promise and made Abraham the father of many nations.
- **V. 13:** Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did not actually see the Promised Land fulfilled but in faith saw it and welcomed it as off in the distance of the future. They accepted the fact that they were strangers and aliens--- travelers, waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises.
- **V. 14:** They showed themselves to be waiting on God and not accepting or settling for any substitutes.
- **V. 15:** They had free will. They could have gone back to their homeland. But they did not.
- **V. 16:** They trusted in God's promise which is better than anything they had. They desired a heavenly homeland. Because of their faith, God was pleased to be their God and was ready to fulfill his promises to them.
- **V. 17:** Abraham trusted God enough to be willing to offer his son, Isaac.
- **V. 18:** He was willing to give God everything, even his hope of a future in his son, Isaac.
- **V. 19:** He believed that God was all powerful and because of his faith, he received his son, Isaac back.