

BIBLE STUDY
August 6-7, 2025

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 18: 6-9
Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-12
Luke 12: 32-48

1. Wisdom 18: 6-9

- The author of the book of Wisdom uses the story of the plagues in the story of Exodus to illustrate how people without faith experience anxiety and terror in the face of the evils of this world. The ten plagues symbolize all that causes fear in the human heart. Our passage shows how the Israelites had peace during their trouble because they had faith in the word of Moses that God would save them.
- V. 6: Moses told them that the Lord was about to save them. He gave them instructions on how they were to prepare.
- V. 7: They waited as they knew that God would save them and punish the Egyptians.
- V. 8: The final plague of the death of the first born was simultaneously the punishment of the Egyptians and the glory of the Israelites because they were saved by the blood of the Passover lamb and this final plague was the cause of Pharaoh letting them go free.
- V. 9: The Israelites during their captivity were still worshipping God and keeping his laws as was handed on to them by the patriarchs.

2. Luke 12: 32-48

- Vv. 22-31: After Jesus demonstrated in the parable of the rich fool the myth of self-sufficiency, he now encourages his listeners to place their trust in the right place, i.e., God and his Kingdom. He says that we should not worry about what we eat or wear. I do not think Jesus is talking about food necessary to preserve life or clothes to cover nakedness. He is telling us that we do not need to worry about eating gourmet food and wearing designer labels. Then, Jesus speaks poetically about trust in God. The birds do not worry about food and God feeds them. The lilies of the field do not worry about clothes but are arrayed in beauty. "This is an appeal to our imagination and using poetic exaggeration to instill in us a basic attitude of trust in God." (Byrne, *Hospitality of God*, p.116) If God takes care of sparrows and lilies, how much more will he take care of us! Put the Kingdom of God first and all will fall into place.
- Vv. 32-34: God desires to give us the treasures of the Kingdom—peace, love, joy. Letting go of earthly riches is an investment in the treasures of heaven. As it has been said, "The only things we take with us are the things we give away." Sharing of our earthly goods is a deposit into our "heavenly bank account."
- Vv. 35-38: Jesus says, "Fear not," but there are things we should fear, namely not being ready to meet the Lord when he returns. We are like

servants awaiting the return of their master from a wedding. It will go well for us if we are awake and ready no matter what time he returns. If we are ready to receive him, he will turn the tables on us and wait on us. He will show us the hospitality of God.

- Vv. 39-40: We must be vigilant. Imagine the shock of coming home and finding your house broken into and your possessions stolen. We take precautions to prevent that. So, we must also take precautions so that the return of the Lord does not catch us off guard. Jesus' return is portrayed as a thief in the night.
- Vv. 41-48: Peter's question about whom Jesus is intending this parable for occasions a teaching on the responsibility of leaders of the Christian community. They bear greater responsibility, and more will be required of them. The leader who does his or her duty will be rewarded with greater responsibility. A leader who abuses his or her role will suffer the consequences in the next life. The leader who knows his or her duty and does not do it will bear more responsibility. The one who neglects his or her duty out of ignorance will get a lesser punishment.

3. Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-12

- V. 1-2: The author offers a definition of Faith. Faith is confidence that what we hope for will come true. Faith is trust that what God has promised will come true. The ancestors of the Old Testament are examples to us of faith.
- V. 8-10: Abraham is our father in faith. He is the prime example of faith. He trusted God and packed up his family and possessions and went forth to where God invited him without knowing the exact destination. He traveled as a nomad in expectation of the permanent home that God would build for him.
- Vv. 11-12: It was faith that made Abraham believe that he would have a son even though he and Sarah were advanced in years and beyond child-bearing age. Even though at times he expressed doubt and impatience with God, he nonetheless trusted. One person, good as dead, would give life to descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore.