

Notes for Next Sunday

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

The Point of this Week's Readings

Old Testament (Proverbs 25:2-10). Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs, which were more than likely preserved in royal archives. Those found in Proverbs 25-29 were copied from these sayings some 200 years later by “the men of Hezekiah. There are various ways that God displays His glory and the glory of kings is when they are able to understand God’s glory. Bringing out God’s glory means that they remove the impurities that are taken out in the process of refining silver. Verses 6-10 point out the proper behavior when in the presence of nobility as well as in dealing with friends.

Epistle (Hebrews 13:1-17). The inspired author has presented the matter to which he wanted to call the special attention of the Hebrew Christians. But in connection with this doctrine he now takes occasion to address some special admonitions to his readers: Brotherly love should continue. Love of the brethren had existed in their midst, as he had frankly acknowledged, chap. 6, 10. But if they did not heed the appeal and warning addressed to them in the preceding chapter, there was danger that the general decay of their faith would be accompanied by the inevitable corresponding loss of true brotherly love. (Kretzmann)

Gospel (Luke 14:1-14). This is yet another episode of growing hostility between Jesus and the Pharisees. They had clashed over who Jesus ate with as well as His doing healing on the Sabbath. Here is a man suffering from dropsy (This condition of swelling, called edema today, is caused by water retention in the body. It was considered grotesque because of the disfigurement it caused. One who had dropsy was considered unclean. [CC]) The Pharisees were very willing to ignore this man for the sake of following worship rules. They had been continually watching Jesus for some time in hopes of trying to catch Him doing something unlawful. Jesus heals the man and then goes on to point out their hypocrisy concerning the proper use of the Sabbath. Jesus also addresses their lack of humility when it came to seating at a banquet as well as who they invite to their banquets.

For more in-depth commentary on each reading, read the notes found after each text below.

OLD TESTAMENT – Proverbs 25:2-10

² It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. ³ As the heavens are high and the earth is deep, so the hearts of kings are unsearchable. ⁴ Remove the dross from the silver, and out comes material for the silversmith; ⁵ remove the wicked from the king’s presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness. ⁶ Do not exalt yourself in the king’s presence, and do not claim a place among great men; ⁷ it is better for him to say to you, “Come up here,” than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman. What you have seen with your eyes. ⁸ do not bring hastily to court, for what will you do in the end if your neighbor puts you to shame? ⁹ If you argue your case with a neighbor, do not betray another man’s confidence, ¹⁰ or he who hears it may shame you and you will never lose your bad reputation.

25:1 copied by the men of Hezekiah. There was a great revival in the reign of Hezekiah (c. 715–686 B.C.), and the king restored the singing of hymns to its proper place (2Ch 29:30).

25:2 to conceal a matter. God’s glory is manifested in many ways, e.g., creation, intervention in history, and, specifically, human redemption through His Son. Yet His ways and will are often hidden from human comprehension. (TLSB)

25:6 do not exalt yourself. Don’t blow your own horn. If we use our God-given talents well, discerning people will notice them. (PBC)

25:7b-10 Though lawsuits may be necessary in some cases, it is wise to settle disputes between parties involved instead of seeking out a third party for legal representation before a court of law (cf Mt 5:25; 7:1-5). (TLSB)

25:9 *do not betray another man's confidence.* Who really wants to be friends with a gossip? (PBC)

EPISTLE – Hebrews 13:1-17

Keep on loving each other as brothers. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. ⁴ Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” ⁶ So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?” ⁷ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. ¹² And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. ¹³ Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. ¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. ¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

13:2 *do not forget.* Christians need constant reminders. They need Law and Gospel constantly.

13:2 *entertained angels without knowing it.* As did Abraham (Ge 18), Gideon (Jdg 6) and Manoah (Jdg 13). (CSB)

13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same.* A confession of the changelessness of Christ, no doubt related to the preceding verse. The substance of their former leaders' faith was the unchanging Christ. (CSB)

13:9 *not by ceremonial foods.* As the legalistic Judaizers were teaching. The old Mosaic order was done away with at the cross and must not be revived. (CSB)

13:12 *Jesus also suffered outside the city gate.* Christ's death outside Jerusalem represented the removal of sin, as had the removal of the bodies of sacrificial animals outside the camp of Israel. (CSB)

GOSPEL – Luke 14:1-14

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. ² There in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy. ³ Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?” ⁴ But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away. ⁵ Then he asked them, “If one of you has a son^a or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?” ⁶ And they had nothing to say. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the

place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited.⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this man your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests.¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”¹² Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid.¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

14:3 experts in the law. By questioning them before the miracle, Jesus made it difficult for them to protest afterward. Scribes studied, interpreted and taught the law (both written and oral. The majority of these teachers belonged to the party of the Pharisees.) (CSB)

14:7 guests. Guests were expected to give priority to those of higher rank, who would take the most prestigious places near the head of the group. (TLSB)

14:13 invite poor, crippled, lame, and blind. This is a List of people likely reduced to begging for food. (TLSB)

14:14 you will be repaid. Christians are to do things without expecting any reward. This is true servanthood which Jesus modeled on more than one occasion. The payment will come at a time and place determined by God. Only God can repay, and repay He will. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 2, Part 3)