

## **EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 27, 2022, Cycle C**

Dear Girls and Boys,

Today is the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, and if you are aware that this coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, you also know that it is the beginning of Lent in the Church calendar. This Sunday is the last Sunday in Ordinary Time until after the Easter Season, and today's readings teach us to listen to the words of God and the teachings of Jesus as we get ready for Lent.

The first reading comes from a book, written by Ben Sirach, a scribe (a writer), who lived about two hundred years before Jesus' time. Today's readings come from a collection of proverbs, which focus on integrity. Our theme for today puts it this way: "how our words and actions say who we are."

### **A reading from the book of Sirach (Sirach 27:6-7)**

**You know what a tree is like by its fruit.  
You know what people are like by their words.  
Words are a true test of character.  
So never praise anyone before they speak.**

Sirach teaches us a lesson that is as good today as it was in his time. Our words and actions are like the fruit of a tree. People know what kind of person we are on the inside by the fruit they see on the outside. We can compare that with a person who says bad things or uses bad words that he/she is not of good character. Sirach tells us that we should not praise people before they speak because their words can show what they are truly like inside.

The responsorial psalm (**Psalm 92:1-2, 12- 13**) tells us that we should thank the Lord and why it is good to thank him.

**R/: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

**It is wonderful to be grateful  
and to sing your praises,  
LORD Most High!  
It is wonderful each morning**

**to tell about your love  
and at night to announce  
how faithful you are.**

**R/: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

**Good people will prosper  
like palm trees,  
and they will grow strong  
like the cedars of Lebanon.  
They will take root  
in your house, LORD God,  
and they will do well.**

**R/: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

The responsorial psalm reminds us that we should thank God every morning as well as every evening because He loves us and takes care of us. You know that as soon as something goes wrong like you fall and hurt yourself, or you need help with a test in school, or someone in your family is sick, what do we do immediately? We turn to pray and ask for the Lord's help. But we must remember that we should not wait until we need God's help. We should talk to Him, even when we are not in need. Make it a habit to have a conversation with the Lord. The Psalm tells us that talking to God, we shall grow strong like the giant trees, and we will take root in God's plan for us.

**VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL (PHILIPPIANS 2:15d. 16a)**

**R:/Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Shine on the world like bright stars;  
You are suffering it the word of life**

**R:/ Alleluia, alleluia**

Now we come to the Gospel. When you read it try to figure out what a blind person, student and teacher, a speck in the eye and a good tree all have in common.

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke(Luke 6:39-45)**

**Jesus used some sayings as he spoke to the people.  
He said: “Can one blind person lead another blind person?  
Won’t they both fall into a ditch?**

**“Are students better than their teacher?  
But when they are fully trained.  
they will be like their teacher.**

**“You can see the speck in your friend's eye.  
But you don’t notice the log in your eye.  
How can you say,  
‘My friend, let me take the speck out of your eye,’  
when you don’t notice the log in your own eye?  
You showoffs!  
First, get the log out of your own eye.  
Then you can see how to take the speck out of your friend’s eye.**

**“A good tree cannot produce bad fruit,  
and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit.  
You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces.  
You cannot pick figs or grapes from thorn bushes.  
Good people do good things because of the good in their hearts.**

**Bad people do bad things because of the evil in their hearts.  
Your words show what is in your hearts.”**

**The gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now that you have read the gospel you might be wondering:” What does all of this have to do with me?” When Jesus was talking to the people, who were ordinary people, who had gathered to hear him speak, He used sayings that they were familiar with so that they could relate to his message. His messages are also for us. He used the case of a blind person leading a blind person. By that he shows us, one has to trust the other, like the students have to trust the teachers about what they teach. These examples tell us that we must put our faith in the Lord, we rely on him to guide us on the good path. Jesus talks about the log in our own eye. By that He means that we first have to look at our own faults, what have we to correct before we blame others. How often do we put down our friends before we consider that we

might be wrong? There are many little things we all can do to become a better person, especially right now that in a few days Lent begins.

Reviewing today's readings, let us take a minute to see how much you remember. Can you answer the following questions?

1. According to Sirach what is a true test of character?
2. Why is it good to thank the Lord every day?
3. What is the reason that people are compared to trees, like palm trees?
4. Why does Jesus call his listeners "showoffs"?
5. We have a common saying: "You can tell a tree by its fruits".  
How does that apply to today's readings?

**Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time, 2022**  
**Barbara Oberding**  
**Children's Liturgy of the World**

## **ANSWERS**

1. According to Sirach, what is a true test of character? Sirach says that a person's own words are a true test of character.
2. It is good to thank the Lord every day because good people will grow and get better and take root like a strong tree.
3. It is a metaphor that people are compared to trees (remember the explanation of metaphor two weeks ago), because it is a simple explanation how people grow, just like trees need to grow from strong roots.
4. Jesus calls his followers "showoffs" because they would rather point out other people's problems, which could be really small (like a splinter), instead of their own mistakes, which would be rather large (like a log).
5. We often judge a good apple and say that it must be from a good tree, as we could say about a person, judging by their good acts, and say that this is a good person.