

## Sunday, August 15, 2021 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

### First Reading: Proverbs 9 – Wisdom vs. Foolishness

*Proverbs 9 pictures two women as calling out to those who pass by – wisdom and foolishness. Whose call are you heeding and following?*

Verses 1-6 - Wisdom has built her house.

She has slaughtered her animals, mixed her wine, and set her table.

She has sent out her servant-girls, calling, "You that are simple, turn in here!"

To those without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity and live, and walk in the way of insight."

In sharp contrast is foolishness – verses 13-18 –

The foolish woman is loud. She sits at the door of her house, calling to those who pass by.

"You who are simple, turn in here!" But they do not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

*Cf. the song, "The House of the Rising Sun" – recorded in 1964 by the Animals*

*What are some of the wiser things that you have done in your life?*

*What are some of the more or most foolish?*

*Matthew 7: 24-27*

*The wise man built his house on rock.*

*The foolish man built his house on sand – possibly the sand of a dry desert wash.*

*The difference was not in the quality of construction. The foolish man might have even built a more elaborate and more expensive house. The difference was in the location of construction. Storms come to both houses. The question is, Are you building so that you can withstand the storm?*

*King Solomon, author of much of the book of Proverbs, started out with such a gift of wisdom.*

*1 Kings 3: 9 – "Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"*

*1 Kings 3: 16-28 – Immediately afterwards Solomon demonstrated his gift of wisdom by being able to settle the case of two women who claimed to be mother of the same child.*

*James 1: 5 – If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.*

*1 Kings 11: 4 – When Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods.*

*1 Kings 11: 11 – Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "I will surely tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant. Yet for the sake of your father David I will not do it in your lifetime; I will tear it out of the hand of your son."*

*1 Kings 12: 8 – (Rehoboam) disregarded the advice that the older men gave him and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and now attended him.*

*Because of the foolishness of Solomon – and the even greater foolishness of Rehoboam – the kingdom built by David was lost in two generations.*

*Ecclesiastes 2: 18-19 – I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me – and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled.*

## **Psalm: Psalm 34: 9-14**

<sup>9</sup>Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD, for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

<sup>10</sup>The lions are in want and suffer hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.

<sup>12</sup>Who among you takes pleasure in life and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?

<sup>13</sup>Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.

<sup>14</sup>Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 15-6: 9**

5: 15-17 - Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

5: 18 - Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit.

5: 25 – Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

*"You are absolutely right – as always, dear"*

6: 1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—this is the first commandment with a promise: "so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

6: 4 - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

6: 5-7 - Slaves, obey your earthly masters as you obey Christ; not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women.

6: 9 - And, masters, stop threatening them, for you know that both of you have the same Master in heaven, and with him there is no partiality.

## **Gospel: John 6: 51-58**

*John has a long teaching from Jesus after the feeding of the five thousand about being the bread of life.*

*In his account of the last supper, John has the washing of feet but not the Words of Institution. These words of Jesus remind us of what He said in the upper room – "This is my body, given for you; this is my blood, shed for you."*

Verses 53-56 - "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them."