

# Trinity 5

## Morning Prayer A

First Lesson: Eccles 2:1-11, 18-23

Second Lesson: Matt 19:16-30

## Homily

No one really likes to hear  
what we heard in today's lessons.  
It all goes so very much against the grain  
of all our earthly strivings and self-image.

King Solomon had it made.

*"I sought in mine heart," he said,  
"to give myself unto wine,  
yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom;  
and to lay hold on folly,"*

That sounds like a wonderfully balanced life.  
He's talking about "going for the gusto",  
and he's talking about wisdom  
-- fun and seriousness mixed,  
how could you have a fuller life than that?  
Furthermore he had purpose in living that way

*"... till I might see what was that good*

*for the sons of men,  
which they should do under the heaven  
all the days of their life."*

He was looking for the best way.  
Remember that Solomon, as a young king,  
had asked God for wisdom,  
and had received it,  
being accounted the wisest man of his generation,  
and yet ...

He built, and he planted,  
filling the land from one end to the other with  
beauty,  
He hired servants, and wealth flowed into his  
coffers.  
He surrounded himself with the best of music.

*"So," he said, "I was great, and increased  
more than all that were before me in Jerusalem:  
also my wisdom remained with me."*

But, he went on,  
*"I looked on all the works  
that my hands had wrought,  
and on the labour that I had laboured to do:  
and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit,  
and there was no profit under the sun. ..."*

*"... For what hath man of all his labour,  
and of the vexation of his heart,  
wherein he hath laboured under the sun?  
For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief;  
yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night.  
This is also vanity."*

Solomon's wisdom showed him that  
all his successes, even all his wisdom,  
had nothing of true fulfillment to offer him.  
What was missing?

We heard a story of a man that came to Jesus.  
This man also was very successful.  
He was rich while he was still young.  
Moreover, he seems to have been wiser  
than most people of his age,  
and seems to have been regarded as such  
by the Lord.  
But all this did not satisfy him.  
He was not a happy man,  
and he walked out of the story still unhappy.  
What was missing?

Some of us have been pretty successful,  
and some, perhaps, less so,  
but we've all accomplished something,  
we've all gathered something together,

and we all cling to the things we have,  
and yet ...  
Nothing really satisfies us.  
There's always something more we want.  
We really aren't finding fulfillment, are we?  
What's missing?

Well, Jesus quizzed the young man  
about his keeping of the law,  
and even this he seemed to have

*"The young man saith unto him,  
All these things have I kept from my youth up:  
what lack I yet? "*

What indeed? He had it all, didn't he?

*"Jesus said unto him,  
If thou wilt be perfect,  
go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor,  
and thou shalt have treasure in heaven:  
and come and follow me."*

Simple enough, it would seem

*"But when the young man heard that saying,  
he went away sorrowful:  
for he had great possessions."*

There it is.

Nothing on this earth can satisfy,  
and the more we hold on to what we have here,  
the less room we make for what we really need;  
and what is that?

... God. ...

St. Augustine described  
how every man has in himself  
a God-shaped space that only God can fill,  
and how we all spend our lives  
trying to fill that space with anything but God,  
and how that can never satisfy.

Ultimately, whatever it is,  
you can't take it with you.  
You've never seen a hearse with a U-Haul behind it,  
You can't take it with you.  
But your relationship with Jesus Christ  
will not pass away,  
but will endure through all eternity.  
Hold lightly to this world  
and everything in it.  
Whatever it may cost, follow Jesus,  
Whatever the cost, it is more than worth it.

"Leave what you have," He says,  
"and follow Me."

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most  
gracious favour, and further us with thy continual  
help; that in all our works, begun, continued, and  
ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and  
finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# **Trinity 5**

## **Morning Prayer B**

First Lesson: Prov 15:1-10, 26

Second Lesson: James 3

## **Homily to be written**

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## **Morning Prayer C**

First Lesson: Gen 17:1-8

Second Lesson: Heb 11:1-16

## **Homily to be written**

# Trinity 5

## Evening Prayer A

First Lesson: Prov 3:1-7, 11-12

Second Lesson: Luke 14:25-35

## Homily

The words of Jesus:

*"... which of you, intending to build a tower,  
sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost,  
whether he have sufficient to finish it?  
Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation,  
and is not able to finish it,  
all that behold it begin to mock him,  
Saying, This man began to build,  
and was not able to finish."*

The Boy Scouts have a motto:

"Be Prepared".

Does anyone doubt that this is good advice?

It's only common sense,  
before getting into something,  
to know what it requires.

"Count the cost," He said,

and we certainly should.

To sign a contract, or to begin a project  
without knowing what the costs will be,  
and whether you can pay them,  
is merely asking for trouble.

It's been said that not preparing  
is actually preparing to fail.

The man building the tower  
and the king preparing to invade  
need to check their ability and act accordingly.

But Jesus, though using examples like these,  
is not talking about contractors or generals.  
He's talking about disciples.  
He's calling us to follow Him,  
and He's making sure we know what the cost is.

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;"*  
we hear from the Book of Proverbs  
*"and lean not unto thine own understanding.*  
*In all thy ways acknowledge him,*  
*and he shall direct thy paths."*

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*"with all thy heart "*

*"in all thy ways"*

That allows for no exceptions.

It's everything He wants.

Jesus puts it even more strongly.  
 He talks of bearing a cross,  
 a drastic idea if you think of it,  
 He says radical impossible things like

*If any man come to me,  
 and hate not his father, and mother, and wife,  
 and children, and brethren, and sisters,  
 yea, and his own life also,  
 he cannot be my disciple.*

Now, this isn't a command,  
 nor even permission,  
 to have a hateful attitude,  
 but rather a call to put Him first.

If even the most beloved person in the world  
 stands between us and God,  
 the beloved has to go.

Many have been disowned by families  
 for following Him.

If to live means to forsake Christ,  
 well, then, life has to be laid aside.  
 Countless martyrs have known that.

Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.  
 To follow Him is to know life,  
 and to live it more abundantly.  
 To follow Him is to gain entrance

to the everlasting joys of heaven.  
 But there is a cost.  
 Count the cost.  
 It is more than any of us can pay.  
 Everything is not enough,  
 but Our Lord paid the price on the Cross.  
 When we do our unacceptable best  
 to fulfill all his commandments,  
 and still fail,  
 He claims us for His own.

*"Nothing in my hands I bring,  
 Simply to the Cross I cling,"*  
 as the hymn says.

He paid the price.  
 It is all His because he bought it.  
 Now let's consider it all spent,  
 and follow.

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most  
 gracious favour, and further us with thy continual  
 help; that in all our works, begun, continued, and  
 ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and  
 finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through  
 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# **Trinity 5**

## **Evening Prayer B**

First Lesson: Judges 6:11-23

Second Lesson: Luke 5:1-11

## **Homily to be written**

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## **Evening Prayer C**

First Lesson: 1 Sam 11

Second Lesson: Acts 9:1-20

## **Homily to be written**