

Eighth Sunday – Ordinary Time – Year C

Today's readings are unique – they seem like a series of unconnected proverbs –
One wise saying after another that seem unrelated to the one before
But when we listen, there is a theme – perseverance, the importance of being faithful

SIR – people ask me about SIR all the time, because its not in all bibles.

Its not in KJV, RSV, NIV and when it is, its sometimes called Ecclesiasticus
It gets its name SIR from the author – in SIR 50:27 (Jesus, son of Eliazar, son of SIR
Here's the history – Originally, all the books of the bible were not combined.

Hebrew scriptures were separate books

Paul's letters were separate letters – Gospels were separate gospels

OT – Hebrew NT – Greek

So Christian bishops and rabbis got together and, language of the day LATIN

One bible – all in Latin – it was called the Vulgate

1500's The Reformation happened

King James commissioned an English translation – and they dropped 8 books

Catholic bibles still include them – so in our liturgy we hear SIR, TOB, MACC...

In today's reading, like I said, it sounds like several unconnected proverbs – but they apply to us.
Especially if you listen for teachings on perseverance the importance of being faithful

Several proverbs here but let's look at this one:

The test of what the potter molds is in the furnace.

So in tribulation is the test of the just”

What is your furnace? COVID? Economy? Sickness? There can be many

Tribulation, trials, turmoil in life are the test of the just

In our life aren't we all tested, tried – hardened, like a pot in a furnace.

BONE CHINA is “fired” 7 times in kiln – it is delicate – but resilient

(drop it and it'll bounce)

How many times have you been fired?

It is in going through difficulty that we get strong – perseverance – there's wisdom in SIR

PS92 will build on this “Lord it is good to give thanks to you”

Listen to the last stanza “The just bear fruit even in old age, vigorous and sturdy shall they be”

Perseverance and faithfulness once again

– we choose how we live, but the fruit of being just is that we flourish bear good fruit

1COR is going to affirm importance of persevering in faith once again:

“Be firm, be steadfast, know that, in the Lord, your labor is not in vain”

Gospel – Jesus uses 3 different examples to share one truth

Blind leading the blind

Splinter and the Beam

Trees and the fruit they bear

JC is condemning the Pharisees – leaders and teachers of Israel who have NOT been faithful

They're like blind leading the blind

They criticize and judge little things– yet they can't see clearly due to their own prejudices

They are rotten trees bearing rotten fruit

WHY

Caught up in their pride and arrogance they had not persevered in the faith

They were focusing so much on the nits of the law the people weren't hearing about the love of God

Which is the reason behind the law in the first place

Know this –

As God's beloved, its only in our perseverance as Christian men and women will have peace.