

- Jesus prays to the Father today: “...*although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to little ones.*”
- Jesus is not condemning intellectual ability or education; in fact, education is praised in scripture: “*To a sensible man education is like a golden ornament, and like a bracelet on the right arm.*” (Sirach 21:21 RSV)
- Rather, Jesus is condemning intellectual pride...especially in rejecting God because of inability to understand how He works in the world...
- ...reminding us of Isaiah: “*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*” (Isaiah 55:8-9 RSV)
- It is good to seek understanding of God, but we can never go beyond scratching the surface.
- As the number 1 is only an infinitesimal part of an infinite number line, so our collective knowledge of God is only an infinitesimal part of the whole of what God is.
- Jesus is saying that one can be the most intelligent in all the world...but unless he approach God with humble heart in humble, accepting faith...wisdom is not present.
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- There is a saying: “*The strength of the Christian is found in weakness.*”
- Modern ears don’t like that saying, because we are bombarded daily with the propaganda that money and power and fame—those perennial idols of humanity—lead to fulfillment.
- Yet with those come great responsibility—for which we will be accountable to God. They are simultaneously gifts and pitfalls—gifts to the wise, but pitfalls to the selfish and those with self-absorbed ambition.

- Because, when we go before God, such things only condemn us if not used well...for love and devotion to God, and for love of neighbor...for what we give to those in need, we give to Him...and what we withhold from those in need, we withhold from Him.
- The world calls meekness and humility and simplicity foolishness and weakness...and despises it.
- But in order to provide us the greatest of examples, Jesus won our salvation through His own humility...not coming in royal magnificence, but rather in humility...without a trace of greatness—something unfathomable to a world which worships power and wealth.
- He seems small...attracting the lonely, the forgotten, the poor—those despised by the world...and yet he chooses them to be guardians of the secret of the salvation.
- As St. Paul writes: *“God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world...to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”* (1Co 1:27-29 RSV)
- ...which is why Jesus chose simple fishermen, rebels and tax collectors to be His apostles...not going to the acknowledged experts of religion, the Pharisees, but using the humble and despised...as an example that ALL can come to Him through faith.
- Likewise, St. Paul was likely the most educated and perhaps the wealthiest of any of the apostles...and yet HE gave up all—humbling himself—in order to preach and follow Christ.
- And through these humble insignificant men, Christ accomplished the greatest social transformation in history.
- The beatitudes proclaim happiness to the simple, the humble, those who seek peace.

- We see this fulfilled in history. Through the centuries some of the greatest saints are those who have changed history with nothing more than their faith:
 - St. Francis of Assisi, without even clothes, who started a radical renewal in the Church...and now a Pope is named after him.
 - St. Therese—an unknown little Carmelite nun—whose “Little Way” of love and humility spread throughout the world in the early 20th century...
 - Mother Teresa of Calcutta—one of the most beloved figures in modern history...not only for our Church, but for the world—not because of power and money, but simply out of her manifest love of God and neighbor.
 - St. John Paul II—a workman’s son who became one of the greatest popes in history...only through faith.
 - And time fails us to speak of St. Elizabeth—the princess who gave away all she had..St. Rose of Lima, St. Lawrence, St. Martin de Porres, St. Isaac Jogues, and many—really, ALL—other saints who found their joy in humility.

- Can we not see the contrast? We see the joy of the humble saints, but how often do celebrities who we admire seem so forlorn... with lives like train wrecks?
- True liberty...true happiness...true and authentic beauty is in the simple and faithful soul. Life in, and with, God matters beyond all else...to be constantly watered and cultivated for growth.
- Not that we should neglect family, friends, etc. We recall Jesus excoriating the Pharisees: “...*you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.*” (Matthew 23:23 RSV)
- Likewise, our duty to God is pre-eminent...but neither should we neglect the others—family, friends, society at large.

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- Jesus says today: *“No one knows the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him.”*
- ...and yet Christ gives grace to all to know Him, for St. Paul writes: *“[God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (1 Timothy 2:4 RSV)
- We have been wise enough to accept our Lord as Savior, so let us take Jesus’ gentle yoke of fidelity upon our shoulders...be lowly and humble of heart...remembering what St. Francis so wisely reminds us: *“What we are in the eyes of God is what we are... and nothing more.”*

Reading 1

[Zec 9:9-10](#)

Thus says the LORD:

Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion,
shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king shall come to you;
a just savior is he,
meek, and riding on an ass,
on a colt, the foal of an ass.
He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim,
and the horse from Jerusalem;
the warrior's bow shall be banished,
and he shall proclaim peace to the nations.
His dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14](#)

R. (cf. 1) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

or:

R. Alleluia.

I will extol you, O my God and King,
and I will bless your name forever and ever.

Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

or:

R. Alleluia.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.

Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

or:

R. Alleluia.

The LORD is faithful in all his words

and holy in all his works.

The LORD lifts up all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Reading II

[Rom 8:9, 11-13](#)

Brothers and sisters:

You are not in the flesh;

on the contrary, you are in the spirit,

if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,

the one who raised Christ from the dead

will give life to your mortal bodies also,

through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Consequently, brothers and sisters,

we are not debtors to the flesh,

to live according to the flesh.

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die,

but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body,

you will live.

Gospel

[Mt 11:25-30](#)

At that time Jesus exclaimed:

“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

for although you have hidden these things

from the wise and the learned

you have revealed them to little ones.

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son except the Father,

and no one knows the Father except the Son

and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,

for I am meek and humble of heart;

and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”