



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



ordinary
time



lectionary
reading

Cycle C

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary #126

Reading I: Sirach 3:17,20,28-29

In this wisdom literature selection we find the writer speaking of the virtue of **humility**. The word **humility** comes from the Latin word *humus*, which means to be grounded, to understand that God is the Creator and we are the created, and to know clearly our role in this relationship of Creator and the created. **Humility** seems to be something rarely spoken of in today's world. The writer of Sirach invites us to *have an attentive ear so that we may experience the joy offered by living in a humble manner*.

Reading 2: Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24

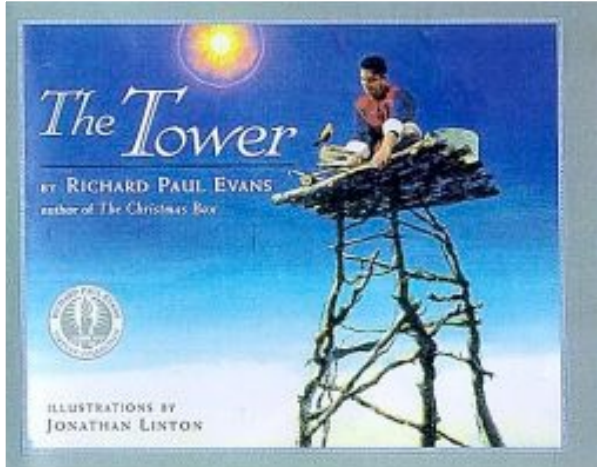
The writer of the letter to the Hebrews invites all to hear and know of the loftiness of God and in doing so we may come to know that this God who is among us is also totally mystery. The reality is that God is as close to us as the skin on the frame of our bodies but also total mystery as well.

Gospel: Luke 14:1,7-14

The gospel continues the theme of **humility** as Jesus speaks of those invited to a wedding celebration and advises that we should always seek the lower place at the table. This story envelopes yet again the manner in which Jesus approached life. He, the Master of all became the servant in order to express love and regard for the other. We, who are His followers, are called to do the same. This **humility** is expressed yet again when Jesus speaks of how we are to host a dinner and that those invited should be inclusive of those who are not able to repay.



children's
story



The Tower: A Story of Humility

Written by Richard Paul Evans

Illustrated by Jonathan Linton

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character
education
activity

**Humility is not thinking less of
yourself as much as it is of
thinking of yourself less!**

The Tower

In ancient China there lives a powerful man who believes the only way to be greater than others is to be above them. He constructs a wooden tower that reaches the clouds and sits there smugly with the knowledge that everyone dwells below. However, when a visiting bird tells him of a wise old woman who is more esteemed than he, he descends from his tower, and learns from the old woman that acts of kindness make a person truly great. This story is a great exploration of **humility**.

Recall a time when you helped someone and how that made you feel. Think also of a time when you gave a gift that meant so much to someone and how that feeling stayed with you beyond the moment of giving the gift. Treating others with great respect is a true act of **humility**. Often times, in today's world **humility** is seen as being a nothing or a nobody, but in actuality is reflecting God, especially when we remember that God left the heavens to become one of us to definitively express God's love for us.

The writer of the Book of Sirach and the person of Jesus in today's gospel seek to help us understand the immense value of having confidence enough in ourselves as images of God that we will treat others as God would treat them. This is also referred to as living as people of justice, that is wanting and seeking for others what God intends.

Stories of Humility

Step One: Think of a story that might be similar to the children's book, *The Tower*, and outline a story that would reflect and illustrate **humility**. Begin the story in one of two ways: write the story and then draw pictures to illustrate the words of the story OR draw some pictures and see if the words come about to bring the pictures more to life.

Step Two: Share your story with another person and allow them to share their story with you and then share which approach you took in the telling of the story: Did you write the story first and then illustrate it or did you draw the pictures and then allow the words to bring the story to life?

Humility is getting in touch with ourselves as God's creation and knowing where we come from and that we are made out of love and for love.



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

You and your team mates have just won the big game and you all are feeling very good about yourselves as you should. The other team is feeling quite sad for they played their best and yet did not win the competition. How will you interact with the other team knowing how they feel? In what ways might you express your **humility** in the midst of the being the winner?

How can you make kids on the other team feel good about themselves? Is there a token of appreciation that you and your coach can offer them to allow them to know of your appreciation for them as fellow sports enthusiasts? What are some things you could do to invite them to feel included?

Look Feel Know Act

Humility is a virtue that allows so many other virtues to come about because **humility** allows us to have an openness to others and different ways of thinking. It is like trying to ask ourselves "how would God approach this situation or person?" If we take the opportunity to pause and ask ourselves what is the most loving thing to do we would be entering into the mind of God, who is love. Each of this Sunday's readings introduce us to how to be people who think of others first and how doing that allows us to better reflect Jesus, who always did this.

The writer of the Book of Sirach speaks to us as a loving parent, who wants us more than anything to be a person of goodness. The "wisdom writer" speaks to the fact that our greatness can be identified by our **humility**.

In today's gospel, Jesus offers us the opportunity of being both guest and host. Our actions of how to be a guest or host will allow us to be humble. Notice that one of the marks of being the Judeo-Christian Tradition is hospitality. Each and every time we meet someone or interact with them we are, in fact, being host to Jesus himself.

In *The Tower*, we see that the young man literally feels he needs to live ABOVE others to feel greatness. It is only when he moves out of himself and comes DOWN off of his perch that he finds another person who opens his eyes to what really is important. He learns from the old woman that it is in acts of kindness that one can truly achieve greatness .



**closing
tool**

Pray that you will always seek to think and act as God would in any given situation. Remember that God is love and by remembering this you will try to do and say the most loving thing.



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