

Introduction:

Jesus' response to the rich young man, in today's Gospel, may seem rather extreme! However, the Lord's challenge to him and to each of us is to go beyond the minimum requirement for goodness – from merely avoiding what is wrong, to actively and selflessly doing what is good; from looking beyond our personal 'desires' and 'wants' to the 'needs' of those less fortunate. The prayer attributed to Solomon in the first reading is about the king asking the Lord for His Spirit of wisdom and understanding, that he may care for God's people, rather than seeking power and riches for himself. We pray today that God's word may so penetrate our beings that we come to understand our true calling as disciples of Jesus.

Readings:

First Reading:	Wisdom 7: 7-11
Psalm:	Psalm 90: 12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Second Reading:	Hebrews 4: 12-13
Gospel:	Mark 10: 17-30

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, with firm belief, that there is hope only when we entrust our life in your hands, we place our petitions before you praying:

Response: Compassionate Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Pope, Bishops, Clergy and Religious – that filled with the wisdom of God, they may continue to lead the faithful along the path of holiness ... (*brief pause*)... we pray to the Lord

For leaders of nations – that guided by the spirit of sincerity and truth, they may work selflessly for the good of their citizens, with particular attention to the needs of the less fortunate ... (*brief pause*)... we pray to the Lord

For those wavering in faith – that God's word may penetrate their lives so completely that they come alive to the reality that it is in Him alone that they live and move and have their being ...(*brief pause*)... we pray to the Lord

For each of us gathered here – that we may strive to detach ourselves from worldly distractions and embrace the teachings of the Gospel that lead us to eternal life ... (*brief pause*)... we pray to the Lord

In the silence of our hearts, we pray for our personal intentions and for those in need of our prayers ... (*longer silent pause*)... We pray to the Lord

Celebrant: Loving Father, fill us with your wisdom, that we may discern your will, and grant us your strength that we may have the courage and perseverance to live by it. We ask this through Christ, our Lord... Amen.