

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

FINDING WISDOM

By Sr. Katherine “Kit” Gray

Today's First Reading

Before reading, consider:

- ***What is wisdom?***
- ***How does a person gain wisdom?***
- ***Who is wise?***

Brothers and sisters:

*Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel,
and not with the wisdom of human eloquence,
so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.
The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

For it is written:

*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the learning of the learned I will set aside.*

Where is the wise one?

Where is the scribe?

*Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish?
For since in the wisdom of God
the world did not come to know God through wisdom,
it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation
to save those who have faith.
For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,
but we proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,
and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.*

1 CORINTHIANS 1:17-25

Context

The dictionary defines wisdom in a person as the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the ability or result of an ability to think and act utilizing knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense, and insight. Wisdom is also described as a body of knowledge and principles that develops within a specific society or historical period.

Wisdom in the Hebrew Scriptures is many things: technical skill (Ex 36:8); the art of government (1 Kings 3:12, 28); cleverness (2 Sam 14:2); the practical skill of coping with life (Prov 1); the pursuit of a lifestyle of proper ethical conduct (Prov 2: 9-11). Wisdom is personified in Proverbs as a woman created by God who was at God's side at the creation of the world (Prov 8).

In the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus associates himself with wisdom: "something greater than Solomon is here" (Mt 12:42, Lk 11:31) and "wisdom is vindicated by her deeds" (Mt 11: 16-19, Lk 7: 31-35).

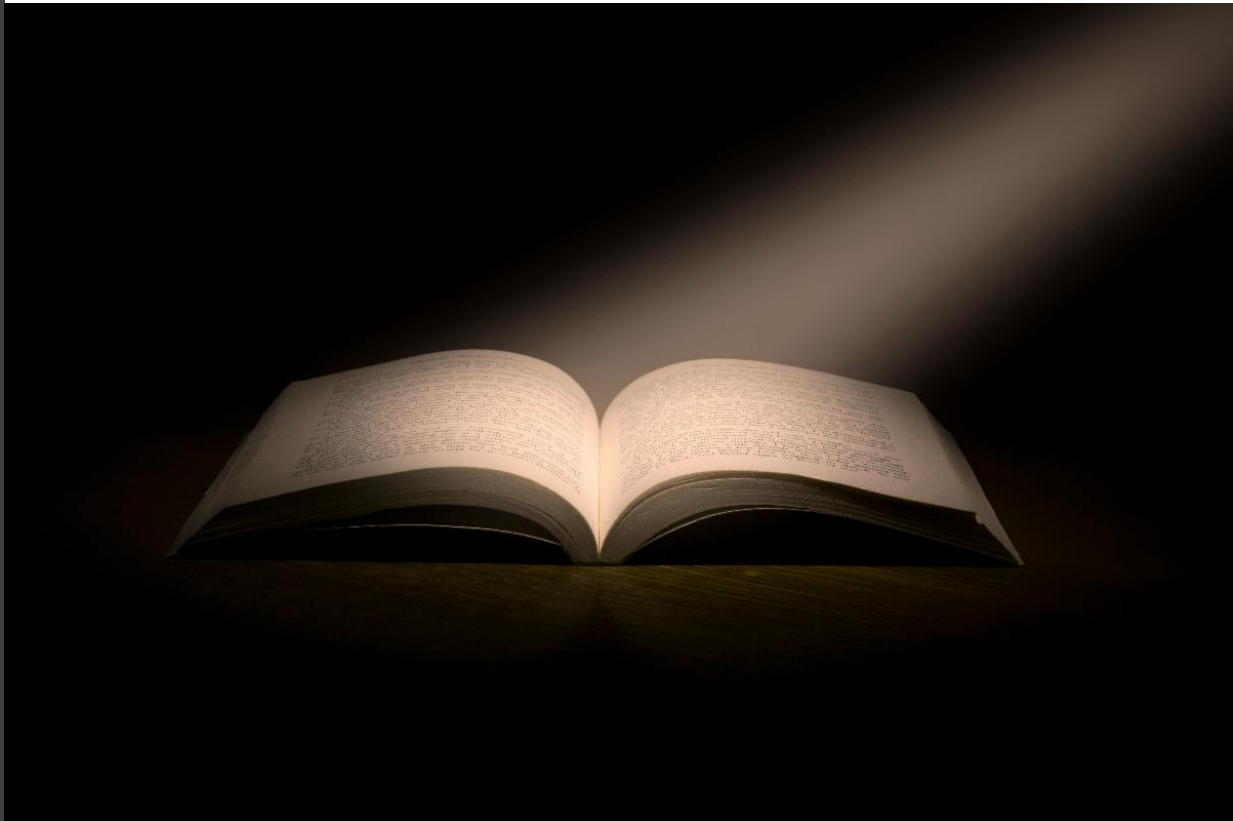
Reflection

In today's readings, Paul contrasts divine and human wisdom. He says that he was sent to preach the Gospel "not with the wisdom of human eloquence"; because God has made the "wisdom of the world foolish." The wisdom that Paul proclaims is "Christ crucified," the weakness of God that is "stronger than human strength."

In himself, his life, his words and deeds, Jesus personified and expressed this wisdom. From the beginning, “he emptied himself,” (Phil 2:5-8); he instructed his disciples that the last would be first and the first last (Mt 20: 16); he said that the one who “humbles himself like a child is the greatest in the kingdom” (Mt 18:4); and he was crucified—a death that, to human eyes, was all about impotence and absurdity.

In Paul’s words to the Philippians, Jesus “humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross” (Phil 2:8) and because of this, “God greatly exalted him” (Phil 2:9). In his death, Christ is the “power of God and the wisdom of God.”

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul takes this further when he says that when he wanted to relief from a thorn in the flesh, Jesus said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” Because of this, Paul continues, “I will boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor 12: 9-10).



Photography of Book Page
Photo by Nitin Arya

For Pondering

- How does the wisdom of God—humility, self-emptying, suffering death—contrast with the wisdom of our society?
 - How have you “lived into” the wisdom of God?
-

For Prayer

*Give me, Lord God, a watchful heart
that no stray thought might distract me from you.
Give me a noble heart that no unworthy affection might pull me down.
Give me a just heart that will not be divided by any dark intention.
Give me a strong heart that will not be broken by any tribulation.
Give me a free heart that will not follow any violent desire.
Give me, Lord God, a mind to know you, diligence to seek you,
wisdom to find you, a life to please you,
perseverance to wait faithfully for you and the trust that will finally embrace
you.*

THOMAS AQUINAS, OP, D. 1274

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

Support CSD



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



[Visit Website](#)

714-744-3172

[Join Mailing
List](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street | Orange, CA 92868 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)