

Homily for November 14, 2017

This evening's readings focus on the theme of perspective. Perspective has to do with how we see the world in which we live. We are invited to cultivate a biblical perspective

Think of the following example. When Goliath came against the Israelites, the soldiers all thought, "He's so big we can never kill him." David looked at the same giant and thought, "He's so big I can't miss."

In our reading from Wisdom we pick up in the book where we hear of the godly perspective. In the verses that proceeded the assigned ones for today we hear of an ungodly perspective.

In what I am about to read we listen into the machinations of those who want to torture a righteous man.

*Let us test him with insult and torture,
so that we may find out how gentle he is,
and make trial of his forbearance.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death,
for, according to what he says, he will be protected."*

From their perspective all the wicked can perceive is the suffering they will inflict on the righteous man and bring about his death. Wisdom goes on to consider:

*Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray,
for their wickedness blinded them,
and they did not know the secret purposes of God,
nor hoped for the wages of holiness,
nor discerned the prize for blameless souls;*

Their perspective has no way of taking into consideration the place and purposes of God. It is this godless perspective that is stated just before we read the words in today's passage:

*for God created us for incorruption,
and made us in the image of his own eternity,
24 but through the devil's envy death entered the world,
and those who belong to his company experience it.*

What a different perspective from that of the wicked. We are made in the image of God's eternity and even though we will experience death, and even a violent death that is not the end. Listen again to how Wisdom states this:

*But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
2 In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,*

