

Introduction to the Readings:

- **Wisdom 7:7-11:** This passage is attributed to Solomon, who speaks of how he prayed for wisdom and valued it above all earthly possessions. Wisdom, he says, surpasses wealth, power, and health, and with it come all other good things. The passage emphasizes the superiority of divine wisdom over worldly riches.
- **Psalms 90:12-17:** This Psalm is a prayer to God for wisdom in recognizing the brevity of life and for God's grace in granting His favor and blessing upon His people. It highlights the need to live wisely, given the fleeting nature of life, and asks for God's guidance in making our days meaningful and fruitful.
- **Hebrews 4:12-13:** This reading reminds us of the power of God's Word, which is described as sharper than a two-edged sword. It can penetrate the deepest parts of our being, revealing our innermost thoughts and intentions. Nothing is hidden from God; everything is laid bare before Him.
- **Mark 10:17-30:** In this Gospel, a rich young man asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him to follow the commandments and then invites him to sell all he has, give to the poor, and follow Him. The young man is sorrowful because of his many possessions. Jesus then speaks to His disciples about the difficulty for the rich to enter the kingdom of God, emphasizing that, with God, all things are possible.

Connection and Theme:

The central theme connecting all these readings is **wisdom in choosing what truly matters**: a life oriented toward God and eternal salvation over worldly attachments. The call to **seek divine wisdom**, as in the Book of Wisdom, echoes throughout the other readings. We are reminded of the **brevity of life** in Psalm 90, encouraging us to live with a focus on eternal truths rather than temporal gains. The letter to the Hebrews underscores how God's Word reveals the truth of our inner hearts, challenging us to align our lives with God's will. In the Gospel, Jesus emphasizes that **detachment from material wealth** and reliance on God is crucial for eternal life.

Analogy:

Consider life as a journey through a vast, dense forest. Along the way, you are offered a choice: you can carry a heavy treasure chest filled with gold, jewels, and precious items, or you can take a simple but effective map that guides you safely through the forest to your final destination. The treasure is alluring, but it weighs you down and distracts you from the path, making it harder to progress. On the other hand, the map, though seemingly simple and less glamorous, shows you the way to avoid dangers and reach your true goal.

Divine wisdom is like the map—it may not seem as immediately valuable as material wealth or success, but it is what leads us safely to eternal life. Like the young man in the Gospel, we are often tempted to hold onto the heavy burden of worldly attachments. But Jesus, in this analogy, is the guide who offers us the map, urging us to leave behind the burdens that hinder us so we can

follow the true path. **God's Word and wisdom reveal the way** to a life that is rich in eternal treasures rather than temporal ones.

Thus, the readings invite us to make a **wise choice**: to value the eternal wisdom of God above fleeting riches and to trust in God's guidance for a life of meaning and salvation.