

The readings for the **25th Sunday in Year B** present a unified message around the themes of *humility, selflessness, and trust in God's justice*. Here's a brief introduction to each:

1. **Wisdom 2:12, 17-20**: This passage reveals the thoughts of the wicked, who plan to test and persecute the righteous because their way of life is a reproach to their evil deeds. It reflects the *tension between good and evil*, and the *suffering that often befalls* those who are just and faithful.
2. **Psalm 54:3-6, 8**: A cry for God's help in the face of enemies, the psalmist expresses trust in God as a deliverer and protector. Despite being surrounded by adversaries, the psalmist relies on God for vindication.
3. **James 3:16-4:3**: James highlights the destructive nature of *jealousy, selfish ambition, and conflict*. He contrasts this with the *peace that comes from true wisdom*, which is pure, peace-loving, considerate, and merciful. James also stresses that *selfish desires lead to conflicts and unmet prayers*.
4. **Mark 9:30-37**: Jesus teaches his disciples about his coming suffering and death, but they don't understand. Instead, they argue about who is the greatest among them. Jesus then redefines greatness, stating that the greatest is the one who serves all, particularly the least and most vulnerable.

Analogy:

Imagine a garden. Some plants are growing tall, shading others and taking up the most sunlight. These tall plants represent selfish ambition, fighting to outshine others. However, the most beautiful part of the garden isn't its tallest plant but the harmony of the whole, where each flower contributes to the overall beauty. The humble gardener knows that pruning is necessary, just as God calls us to humility, selflessness, and peace. Those who seek only to rise above others, like the wicked in Wisdom or the disciples arguing about greatness, fail to see the true beauty of service and righteousness.