

**March 4, 2021**  
**Thursday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent**  
**Jer 17:5-10**  
**Luke 16:19-31**

Wisdom. Trust. Power.

I think today's reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah and from the Gospel according to Luke can be boiled down to these three words: Wisdom, Trust, and Power.

We all crave wisdom. After all, who wants to make a foolish decision? But how does one find wisdom? How does one become wise?

Jeremiah gives us the answer. "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord;.... They are like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: It does not fear heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still produces fruit."

Wise people place their trust in the Lord whenever they exercise their power to choose, a power God has given to us all. I don't think the rich man in today's gospel was a bad man, but he wasn't a wise man either. He either chose to ignore the poor man at his door, or he was too self-absorbed to even notice the man. Either way, its clear that he didn't consult the Lord—place his trust in the Lord—before going about his business.

Time and time again throughout salvation history, God has demonstrated the wisdom of involving Him in our decision-making, trusting Him to guide us toward the right decision. Like it says in the gospel today, we have Moses and the prophets. Most emphatically, we have the resurrected Jesus.

During this past year we have witnessed countless government officials around the world use their power to make decisions on how to deal with this terrible pandemic. We've watched some decide to do whatever it takes to safeguard the safety and health of their constituents and trust that the terrible economic consequences of their decisions will somehow be resolved. We've seen others decide to protect the economy and allow the resulting death and destruction to be what it is. **Which group do you think placed more trust in the Lord?**

Every decision we make has consequences not just for us, but for many around us; for those who rely upon us; for those who trust us; even for those we will never know. Right decisions are made when one places his or her trust in the hands of the Lord before exercising any decision-making power.

I'd like to close by telling you a beautiful story about the wisdom of trusting in the Lord before exercising any decision-making power.

I know man of great faith who raised a son in Chicago, the only place he ever lived. He built a successful business only to be widowed at a young age. As my friend approached his golden years, a woman became pregnant by his son. The couple decided to abort—right to choose and all that. My friend intervened and adopted the baby and raised her on his own. To avoid the toxic environment that his decision created within his family, my friend was forced to relocate to a strange city and build a business all over again, while at the same time raising a child on his own. In a few months' time that nearly aborted fetus will graduate with honors from the University of Notre Dame.

Entrusting your decision-making power to the Lord doesn't always result in the easy decision, but it does always result in the right decision. May we be persuaded to believe that by the One Who rose from the dead.