

Homily by Fr. Robin CRM– 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Readings: Sirach 3:17-18,20,28-29; Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24a; Luke 14:1,7-14

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today's Word of God brings us to the heart of Christian discipleship: humility.

The book of Sirach tells us: *"The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord"* (Sir 3:18). In our world, greatness is usually measured by status, power, wealth, or influence. But Scripture turns that logic upside down. True greatness is found in humility — in lowering ourselves before God and serving others.

In the Gospel, Jesus notices how people scramble for the best seats at a banquet. He teaches: *"When you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place."* (Lk 14:10). It is not simply about etiquette; it is about the posture of the heart. For Jesus concludes with a great law of the Kingdom: *"Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."* (Lk 14:11).

The Fathers of the Church saw humility as the foundation of all virtues. St. Augustine wrote: *"Humility is the foundation of all the other virtues; hence, in the soul in which this virtue does not exist there cannot be any other virtue except in mere appearance."* For Augustine, without humility, even our good works risk being poisoned by pride.

St. John Chrysostom, reflecting on today's Gospel, reminds us: *"Do you wish to be great? Then begin by being the least. Do you desire to build a lofty fabric? Think first about the foundation of humility. The greater the structure, the deeper must be the foundation."*

The second reading from Hebrews brings this into sharper focus. The author contrasts Mount Sinai — with its fear and trembling — with Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, where we approach God not in terror but in joyful communion with the angels and with Christ, the mediator of the new covenant. Humility, then, is not about humiliation but about entering into this communion, recognizing that all we are and all we have is gift.

But humility is not only about how we see ourselves; it is also about how we treat others. Jesus in the Gospel goes further: *"When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind."* (Lk 14:13). True humility opens our hearts to those who cannot repay us. This is the humility of God Himself, who

stooped down to become man, who *“though He was rich, became poor for our sake.”* (2 Cor 8:9).

St. Gregory the Great once said: *“The more a man is filled with the knowledge of God, the more he should humble himself, knowing that he lacks so much.”*

This means that the closer we come to God, the less room there is for pride, because we see everything as grace.

So, how do we live this out? Humility is learned in small daily choices:

- Listening before speaking.
- Serving without seeking recognition.
- Welcoming those who cannot repay us.
- Thanking God for every gift instead of boasting of our own strength.

Dear friends, in a world that tells us to climb higher, Jesus tells us to take the lower place. In a culture that prizes self-promotion, Jesus teaches self-forgetful love. If we live this way, we will discover what Sirach promises: *“You will find favour with the Lord.”*

Let us ask today for the grace to grow in humility, so that, when the final banquet of heaven is set, the Lord Himself may say to us: *“Friend, come up higher.”*

Amen.