

Some scathing words open the Reading from the book of Wisdom today.

“Naturally stupid are all men (and women) who have not known God and who, from the good things that are seen, have not been able to discover Him-who-is.”

A judgement the writer goes on to clarify still further. Though excusing people to a certain extent, as in, “Small blame, however, attaches to these men (and women), for perhaps they only go astray in their search for God and their eagerness to find him.” Overall, the writer lacks patience and the tone might be summed up where it is written, “Even so, they (those who do not know God) are not to be excused: if they are capable of acquiring enough knowledge to be able to investigate the world, how have they been slow to find the Master?” Or, put another way: they can’t see the woods for the trees!

Why are the above observations in the passage from Wisdom important? Well Jesus, as always, provides the answer. “When the day comes for the son of man to be revealed,” Ignorance of God will not be an excuse. Those who follow their own path will be caught out. Drowned in the flood, as in Noah’s day. Or destroyed by fire and brimstone as at Sodom. For Jesus says, “Anyone who tries to preserve his (or her) life will lose it; and anyone who loses it will keep it safe.” We are to know God and follow His will in ALL we do, no matter where He may lead us. “On that night two will be in one bed: one will be taken, the other left.” Which one will we be?