

NOVEMBER 13 2025 DEACON MICHAEL CARRERA

I chase the world, beaten, broken, and bruised, always bound, never free. I paused for a moment to catch my breath, head down, defeated, only to look up and see that God was, in fact, also chasing me, always free, never bound, wanting to bless me for all of eternity.

Friends, there's a saying that wisdom overcomes foolishness. Well, this poem was written at a time that wisdom overcame foolishness. You see, when we take time to pray, time to listen to God's Word, we sit with the Lord in adoration, we attend Mass, and we sometimes do the things in scripture that we read that we find challenging to do. Yes, yes. When we do these things, as we heard beautifully in our psalm, there is an unfolding of God's Word, and this unfolding brings light and imparts understanding, as we are guided towards wisdom, God's wisdom, where we are set free.

Well, what is God's wisdom? Well, we heard it so beautifully articulated in our first reading that God's wisdom is intelligent and unique and subtle. God's wisdom is unpolluted. That's a good word. Yes, God's wisdom is unpolluted and it's distinct and it's loving of all that's good, and it's all powerful, and it's free from anxiety. Could you imagine being a friend with those qualities? I mean, could you imagine having a friend with those qualities? Imagine a time in your life where you were in a period of darkness, where you may have felt hopeless and helpless, and then someone enters your life who stood firm on God's wisdom. Their mere presence or maybe they spoke a word and suddenly there was light in the darkness.

Yes, yes. You see, friends, God guides us toward wisdom, but the world, more often than not, guides us towards foolishness, where we remain bound, because, you see, those who are of the world, yes, those who compete for our time and our energy and our resources, and they

compete for our attention or our allegiance, yes, all of those forces of the world who compete for these things, they benefit from us remaining focused on the things of the world.

Well, the Pharisees that we heard in our Gospel passage were of the world. They believed that the kingdom of God was going to come as a great worldly kingdom, yes, with great power and might, and we, too, sometimes do those things, don't we? We chase the world's possessions and the world's influence and power as we try to satisfy that longing that we have for the kingdom of God that is within us. And so, we look for evidence and we look for external signs that we have arrived, that we have succeeded, that we have left our mark. Yes, we fill our lives with so many things, our lives are so full, yet we remain so unfulfilled, because, you see, friends, the kingdom of God is not concerned with the things of the world primarily, but with the state of our souls.

So, the question is do we have enough faith and trust in the Lord? Yes, yes, enough faith and trust that we aimlessly--that we do not aimlessly, or sometimes pridefully, really chase these world promises of wealth and health and prosperity, all of which are important, of course they are important, for the Lord tells us in scripture that "I have come so you can have life and have it abundantly." And so, yes, so, wealth and good health and prosperity are all part of an abundant life, but we all know that the Lord calls us to pursue these things in varying degrees.

So, in the spirit of today's scriptures, can we pause our minds and our hearts. Yes, pause our minds and our hearts, bow our heads, take a deep breath, and, as we heard in our first reading, allow the wisdom of God to pervade and penetrate our entire being so we will not be led astray, because we all know that there will be storms in life. Yes, yes. There will be financial storms and physical storms and emotional storms and, yes, there will also be spiritual storms, but when these storms come, if we stand firm on God's wisdom, yes, yes, if we stand firm on God's wisdom when these storms come, we will be shaken, but we will not be stirred,

and the reason we will not be stirred is that we not only believe in the Lord, we believe the Lord when He says to us, as He did today in our Gospel acclamation, that "I am the vine and you are the branches, and, yes, if you live in me, then I will live in you, and we will produce much fruit."

So, now, infused with God's wisdom, friends, yes, infused with God's wisdom, if someone says to us, as the Lord said to the disciples in the Gospel passage, "Look, here is the kingdom of God," or "Look, there is the kingdom of God," we will not be deceived by the flattery and sometimes flashiness of the world's promises. No, we will stand firm on God's wisdom. We will pick up our cross and carry it as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

Now, friends, if we do these things, maybe someday, hey, maybe this very day, we too will say, "I chase the world, beaten, broken, and bruised, always bound, never free. I paused for a moment to catch my breath, head down, defeated, only to look up and see that God was, in fact, also chasing me, always free, never bound, wanting to bless me." Hey, wanting to bless you. Yes, friends, wanting to bless us, the body of Christ, for all of eternity.