

## **Scriptures September 21, 2025**

### **First Reading**

#### **Proverbs 1:1-21 NRSV**

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

#### Prologue

<sup>2</sup> For learning about wisdom and instruction,  
for understanding words of insight,

<sup>3</sup> for gaining instruction in wise dealing,  
righteousness, justice, and equity;

<sup>4</sup> to teach shrewdness to the simple,  
knowledge and prudence to the young—

<sup>5</sup> let the wise also hear and gain in learning,  
and the discerning acquire skill,

<sup>6</sup> to understand a proverb and a figure,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.

<sup>7</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

#### Warnings against Evil Companions

<sup>8</sup> Hear, my child, your father's instruction,  
and do not reject your mother's teaching;

<sup>9</sup> for they are a fair garland for your head,  
and pendants for your neck.

<sup>10</sup> My child, if sinners entice you,  
do not consent.

<sup>11</sup> If they say, 'Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood;  
let us wantonly ambush the innocent;

<sup>12</sup> like Sheol let us swallow them alive  
and whole, like those who go down to the Pit.

<sup>13</sup> We shall find all kinds of costly things;  
we shall fill our houses with booty.

<sup>14</sup> Throw in your lot among us;

we will all have one purse'—  
<sup>15</sup> my child, do not walk in their way,  
keep your foot from their paths;  
<sup>16</sup> for their feet run to evil,  
and they hurry to shed blood.  
<sup>17</sup> For in vain is the net baited  
while the bird is looking on;  
<sup>18</sup> yet they lie in wait—to kill themselves!  
and set an ambush—for their own lives!  
<sup>19</sup> Such is the end<sup>[a]</sup> of all who are greedy for gain;  
it takes away the life of its possessors.

### The Call of Wisdom

<sup>20</sup> Wisdom cries out in the street;  
in the squares she raises her voice.  
<sup>21</sup> At the busiest corner she cries out;  
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

## Second Reading

### Luke 16:1-13 NRSV

#### The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

**16** Then Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer." <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes." <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" <sup>6</sup> He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill

and make it eighty.”<sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.<sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth<sup>[b]</sup> so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>10</sup> ‘Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth,<sup>[d]</sup> who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’<sup>[e]</sup>