

# 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – SEPTEMBER 9, 2012

## Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:  
the LORD is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,  
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,  
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor,  
or crush the afflicted at the gate;

for the LORD pleads their cause  
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

## Psalm 125

They who trust in God are like Mount Zion, \*  
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

**The hills stand about Jerusalem; \*  
so does God stand round about the people,  
from this time forth for evermore.**

The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land  
allotted to the just, \*  
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

**Show your goodness, O God, to those who are  
good \*  
and to those who are true of heart.**

As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,  
God will lead them away with the evildoers; \*  
but peace be upon Israel.

## James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of  
favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus  
Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine  
clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor  
person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take  
notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say,  
"Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is  
poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have  
you not made distinctions among yourselves, and  
become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my  
beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen  
the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be  
heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those  
who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is  
it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who  
drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme  
the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according

to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as  
yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin  
and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For  
whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point  
has become accountable for all of it. For the one  
who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said,  
"You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit  
adultery but if you murder, you have become a  
transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those  
who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For  
judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has  
shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say  
you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save  
you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily  
food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace;  
keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not  
supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?  
So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

## Mark 7:24-37

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre.  
He entered a house and did not want anyone to know  
he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a  
woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit  
immediately heard about him, and she came and  
bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a  
Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to  
cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her,  
"Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take  
the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she  
answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat  
the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For  
saying that, you may go-- the demon has left your  
daughter." So she went home, found the child lying  
on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went  
by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the  
region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf  
man who had an impediment in his speech; and they  
begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him  
aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his  
fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his  
tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and  
said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And  
immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was  
released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered  
them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them,  
the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were

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astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

## **Collect**

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.