

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Proper 9

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

16. Jesus saith unto His listeners, Whereunto shall I liken this generation that listeth not to the wisdom of the former times? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,
17. And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced even an can-can; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented even one sniff; and we asked to share your playthings but ye refuse saying, Get your own toys, for this ball is mine, and also this stick and hoop. And Lego is yet but a Latin verb.
18. For know this of a truth, John came neither eating nor drinking (apart from locusts that are a bit crunchy, and wild honey that doth rot the teeth quite a lot and increase the fatness of the waist,) and they say, He hath a devil, for that is a strange diet even by Galilean standards and will not be popular amongst the people.
19. But the Son of man came eating diverse sandwiches and pastries, kosher and organic, and drinking mead and fine vintages and vegetable smoothies, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous and given to much pies and fruit, and a winebibber who doth spill much from the cup, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children (let the reader understand for I, the author, doth not comprehend this sentence, but the voices I hear doth tell me to include it for posterity.)

[The clergy and people must understand that there is a deliberate jump in the lectionary at this point. It is neither a liturgical printing error nor a mistake in the parish leaflet for a change.]

25. At that time Jesus answered the unspoken questions of many and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and seekers after political power and earthly glory, and hast revealed them unto babes and the super-simple who doth labour under the sun.
26. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight, and so thou hast ordained and I do reveal it, yea, openly and with plain language except that is in the Johannine narratives that will come later.
27. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. And they did question, saying, What of the cousins even unto the third removal, or the aunts and uncles, or the nieces and nephews? But He answereth them not, for He perceiveth that they had not understood His teaching. So he said with an sigh,
28. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. And the people did think on this and did begin to consider an union to represent them. Yet some said, Those words sound quite comfortable. And suddenly He continued, saying;
29. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
30. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. And they were perplexed and questioned why the milkmaids should be given such preferment. And then Peter remembered.