

## **Lectionary with Complete NRSV Texts for *We Make the Road by Walking: A Year-Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation***

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22. Jesus the Teacher

Proverbs 3:1-26

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Mark 4:1-34

### **Proverbs 3:1-26**

My child, do not forget my teaching,  
but let your heart keep my commandments;  
for length of days and years of life  
and abundant welfare they will give you.  
Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;  
bind them round your neck,  
write them on the tablet of your heart.  
So you will find favour and good repute  
in the sight of God and of people.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.  
Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.  
It will be a healing for your flesh  
and a refreshment for your body.

Honour the Lord with your substance  
and with the first fruits of all your produce;  
then your barns will be filled with plenty,  
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

My child, do not despise the Lord's discipline  
or be weary of his reproof,  
for the Lord reproves the one he loves,  
as a father the son in whom he delights.

### *The True Wealth*

Happy are those who find wisdom,  
and those who get understanding,  
for her income is better than silver,  
and her revenue better than gold.  
She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her.  
Long life is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and honour.  
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
and all her paths are peace.  
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called happy.

### *God's Wisdom in Creation*

The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;  
by understanding he established the heavens;  
by his knowledge the deeps broke open,  
and the clouds drop down the dew.

### *The True Security*

My child, do not let these escape from your sight:  
keep sound wisdom and prudence,  
and they will be life for your soul  
and adornment for your neck.  
Then you will walk on your way securely  
and your foot will not stumble.  
If you sit down, you will not be afraid;  
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.  
Do not be afraid of sudden panic,  
or of the storm that strikes the wicked;  
for the Lord will be your confidence  
and will keep your foot from being caught.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### **Mark 4:1-34**

Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

#### *The Purpose of the Parables*

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, 'To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that

"they may indeed look, but not perceive,  
and may indeed listen, but not understand;  
so that they may not turn again and be forgiven." '

And he said to them, 'Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.'

#### *A Lamp under a Bushel Basket*

He said to them, 'Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret,

except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!' And he said to them, 'Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.'

#### *The Parable of the Growing Seed*

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

#### *The Parable of the Mustard Seed*

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

#### *The Use of Parables*

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.