

## October 28

**Proverbs 30:8-9 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup>Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches but give me only my daily bread. <sup>9</sup>Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

When I first started teaching, at the beginning of each year, the school made available the school supplies we would need. It was much simpler then, but teachers were allowed to pick up pencils, erasers, staplers, chalk, etc. as they needed. Being a new teacher, I did not want to run short so I grabbed an abundance of each. As I was loading up my supplies, I noticed other teachers taking only a handful of some of the items. I continued doing this for a couple of years when I noticed I had a profusion of everything because of what was left over. Those supplies were stored in my desk, useless because they were not available to others. Now I understood the actions of the more experienced teachers. Take what you will use.

As I read today’s passage, the Holy Spirit reminded me of my actions so many years ago. At the time, I did not see myself as greedy. However, when I saw all those supplies piling up in my desk, I knew I was being selfish although I called it being prepared. Solomon’s word takes us back to God’s instructions about the manna: take only what you need for the day. Solomon understood that having riches can cause us to forsake God because we no longer think we need Him. We look to ourselves as the source of our bounty. If we lack for our necessities, we may take drastic actions to acquire what we need. Now we see the wisdom in Jesus’ example of how we are to pray. Lord, give us today our daily bread. Help us to be satisfied, thankful, and joyful with what You provide. As we thank Him for our daily provisions, we can avoid greed and the idea that we need more. Every day we see examples of people claiming they deserve more. They want more money, better homes, free this, and free that. No matter what they get, they will not be satisfied. Each day, may we truly be thankful for our daily bread, knowing it will supply our needs as well as enable us to help others.