

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Lectionary: 109

Reading 1 [1 KGS 3:5, 7-12](#)

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." Solomon answered: "O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?" The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: "Because you have asked for this— not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right— I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you."

Responsorial Psalm [PS 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130](#) - R. (97a) **Lord, I love your commands.**

Reading 2 [ROM 8:28-30](#)

Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

Gospel [MT 13:44-46](#)

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."

TODAY we hear the third and final set of readings centered on the parables of the Kingdom from Matthew chapter 13, through which Jesus is helping us to understand the real meaning of life, that the most important things in life are to know God and to live according to the Gospel. The difference between the two parables we heard today relates to how we often come to encounter Christ. Sometimes we're just going about our lives and he finds us. Other people know about him and they go looking for the encounter.

To have a personal relationship with Christ and to have made his view of life one's own is the most beautiful, the most precious thing in the world. It is not enough, of course, just to say this; one must personally experience it as a fact. When one really discovers Jesus and his vision of life everything else becomes secondary. In the service of the Kingdom there is a liberating joy that inspires us to faithful conviction and action. This was Paul's experience.

This is what happens to us when we enter fully into Christ's Kingdom. When we realize that this relationship is the treasure, the pearl of human existence, that he alone can give the joy and satisfaction we yearn for in the depths of our being, it is then that we truly will decide to follow Jesus, to obey his teachings and make his friendship our highest priority. And as soon as we do that, our lives take on a whole new purpose. Our relationships, actions, and decisions take on transcendent meaning; they are connected to eternal life. Suddenly, we are free from the frustration and meaninglessness that comes from living only for the passing, superficial pleasures and successes of this life, because we have found something infinitely more valuable: a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, King and Lord of heaven and earth.

The role of the Church lead the world to the treasure and the pearl of great price, to Christ. We are the many brothers and sisters of Christ, the church, who make it happen.