

CTW July 28-29, 2017

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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In today's first reading we find a young Solomon asking God to grant him an understanding heart – the heart to lead – the heart to know right from wrong. He was not interested in riches or conquests. He simply wanted to lead his people and follow God's will. His willingness to forsake the things of the world in order to serve his people pleased the Lord, and Solomon was granted wisdom beyond compare.

In today's Gospel, Jesus uses parables once again to open our minds to the ways of our gracious God. His kingdom is like a treasure buried in a field or a merchant's pearl of great price. Its seekers must willingly sacrifice everything to possess the most precious of all gifts – a gift that, once obtained, must be nurtured and cared for.

Just as a tended field, with or without a treasure, becomes fruitful, and a well-worn pearl increases its luster, the kingdom is fostered with care. Those who seek it learn to joyfully walk with Christ. As disciples of the kingdom, they travel a well-lit path toward understanding hearts. Fully alive and cherishing their treasure above all else, they embrace, celebrate and support their fellow travelers; and the kingdom flourishes as God intended.

In what ways will your understanding heart help God's kingdom to flourish on this beautiful summer day?

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