

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 26, 2020

First Reading — 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ... 7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And thy servant is in the midst of thy people whom thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. 9 Give thy servant therefore an understanding mind to govern thy people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to govern this thy great people?" 10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12 behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

Responsorial Psalm PS 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

R. (97a) **Lord, I love your commands.**

I have said, O LORD, that my part is to keep your words.

The law of your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

R. **Lord, I love your commands.**

Let your kindness comfort me according to your promise to your servants.

Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.

R. **Lord, I love your commands.**

For I love your command more than gold, however fine.

For in all your precepts I go forward;

every false way I hate.

R. **Lord, I love your commands.**

Wonderful are your decrees;

therefore I observe them.

The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple.

R. **Lord, I love your commands.**

Second Reading — Romans 8:28-30

²⁸ We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Gospel Reading — Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They said to him, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like

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a householder who brings out of his treasure
what is new and what is old.”

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INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading — 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

1. What would be your request in response to the invitation, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you”?

Second Reading — Romans 8:28-30

2. How would you define the “riches” of Christ, according to this passage?

Gospel Reading — Matthew 13:44-52

3. What value is placed on the Kingdom of God by people in these parables?
4. How would you explain to someone how to “search” for the Kingdom of God?
5. Practically what are the implications for someone who finds it?
6. Practically what are the implications for someone who chooses to not search for it?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.