

This Week's Readings

First Reading: 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12.

King Solomon, faced with great responsibilities, prays for the gift of a discerning heart.

Second Reading: Romans 8: 28-30.

God turns everything to the good of those who love him.

Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52.

Jesus describes some of the different ways in which we gain the Kingdom of God.



Points for Reflection

1. The message of the parables of the Buried Treasure and the Fine Pearl is the same: in order to gain the Kingdom of God, that is, to enjoy total peace and happiness with God and our brothers and sisters, we must show the same kind of agility and firm decision shown by the characters in the parables.

There comes a moment in our lives when we have to make a decision for someone and for something that will contribute to our happiness (or unhappiness if we decide wrongly or leave our decision for another time). We must not only choose wisely, like Solomon (**First Reading**), but choose quickly, because opportunities do not wait for us. Choosing from the viewpoint of God is to go after an authentic goal, but it will be a hard choice and a gamble. We must make a decision of faith, and let go of other treasures which are the source of our security; but, in the end, we will experience true joy, as if we had in our hands the truly precious jewel.

2. The parable of the Dragnet is taken from the life of fishermen (like some of the disciples), who derive their living from the Sea of Galilee, which, until today, abounds with fish. In the morning, upon arriving on the shore, the fishermen start to separate their catch---those that are "pure" and therefore eatable, and those which the Law prohibits: for example, fish that have no fins and scales (Leviticus 11: 10).

The parable points to "the end of time", a time when God will reveal what is authentic and unmask hypocrisy. In this present world, good and evil mix, and often they appear as what they are not. Many people "call evil good and good evil, put darkness for light and light for darkness, put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter" (Isaiah 5: 20). But in the end, the angels of God will separate the wicked from the just and throw out the wicked just as the fishermen of Galilee separates the "pure" from the unclean.

Every moment is a time of grace to be spent for continual conversion and service to God and neighbour. In the end, there is only separation: eternal happiness with God or eternal unhappiness away from God.

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Kids' Corner

Colour the picture below based on today's Gospel reading.

