

Seventeenth Sunday | Year A

July 30th, 2023 (1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12 | Romans 8:28-30 | Matthew 13:44-52)

God gives King Solomon an opportunity to ask of him for a gift. Solomon asks for neither wealth nor longevity of life. He asks instead for an understanding heart that can distinguish right from wrong. Let us now ask God to attend to our needs.

1/ The word that comes from the mouth of God is to us more than thousands of gold and silver pieces. For his word is wisdom and knowledge to our hearts. For peoples and nations that fear God. We pray that the Church, led by Pope Francis and guided by pastors, may always learn to discern the wills of God. Let us pray.

2/ Paul teaches that all things happen according to good purpose for those who love God. For God justifies those whom he calls to fulfill his wills. For those who have lost faith in God. We pray that they be inspired by Paul's message, so they can return to God. Let us pray.

3/ The Parable of a Treasure Buried in a Field takes connects us to Solomon's search for the knowledge of God. We are called to seek and do what is most precious in our lives, namely, trusting God above all things. For those who seek powers and authorities in this world. We pray that they may give up these follies and turn to God. Let us pray.

4/ In the Parable of a Net Thrown into the Sea that collects fish of every kind, Jesus implies that faithful Christians, while on earth, have to live among many types of people. Some are morally good people while others are evil citizens. But if Christians remain faithful to God, the angels will carry them to the heavenly kingdom. For our sisters and brothers who, in life, were good Christians, but have now departed from us. We pray that the angels carry them to God's loving arms. Today we remember **[at 4:30 PM]** Bob and Joan Whelan, and Red and Libby Lucas; **[at 10:00 AM]** Gene and Debbie Hardesty. Let us pray.

God our Father, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendor of creation, and in the beauty of human life. Touched by your hand our world is holy. Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share your blessings with our brothers and sisters, and to experience the joy of life in your presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.