# Homily for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2026 Year A

Each person has a different set of values in life. Some people crave fame and popularity. Nothing pleases them more than to be recognised in the street and to have their photographs in the newspaper. For others the pursuit is status and respectability within the community. They are not happy unless they've got a luxury home, money in the bank and drive an expensive car. Their big push is for material goods.

But the readings in today's liturgy issue a direct challenge to all types of worldly lifestyles and tell us to get our priorities right. Many married couples find out the hard way that it is more important for a family to be happy them to live in plush surroundings. Time spent with children is of more value than money spent on toys.

We may live in the age of the instant but rearing a family and teaching them how to get along with one another are things that cannot be rushed. Experience teaches us that there are no short cuts in these important matters because anything that is worthwhile cannot be achieved without a lot of effort.

The treasure the Gospel is referring to is our faith which tells us we are heirs to the Kingdom of God. It is so important and valuable that everybody must give it absolute priority. This should be our only interest and chief concern in life. At the end of the day nothing else matters because worldly values are destined to pale into insignificance. Our search should not be for superficial happiness but to develop a good relationship with God.

One of the encouraging aspects of this Gospel story is that such a treasure can be found in ordinary places. God is constantly speaking to us in the simplicity of our lives. What we've got to do is to open our eyes to his presence and search for him in the bits and pieces of everyday happenings. This will only come about with prayer and by taking a good look at ourselves and trying to discover what God is saying to us at any given moment. We can stumble across the treasure, in bravely bearing and properly accepting suffering, or when a serious illness leaves us invalided and our entire future is put in jeopardy.

Such times of crisis with everything falling apart may be a call to new growth and an adventure in holiness. It's a time to reflect on the depth and the value we put on our faith in Christ. How many can honestly say that nothing else matters, but this precious gift handed down to us by our parents and by a previous generation at so

great cost? Does it mean anything to us that Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we could share in His glory?

If we really want happiness there is no point in turning to the passing things of life hoping that they will fill our emptiness and loneliness. We must invest time and energy in detaching ourselves from such superficiality. Our great destiny is to share in God's Glory so our sole preoccupation should be to stake everything on Christ and the values He stands for and portrays.