

## Homily for Seventeenth Sunday of the Year – A

**Readings: Kings 3: 5, 7-12; Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 13: 44-52**



**Fr Michael says:**

### Wisdom

What matters to us in life? What are our priorities – are they the right ones for us? Where are we going and why? Will they bring us to the calling which is ours, received directly from God through our Baptisms and the way that we live our lives of faith on a daily basis. Solomon chose wisdom as the thing that he needed as he became king. Paul reminds the Romans that with God's love we can turn everything to our spiritual advantage – if we are clear what it is we are seeking! The Gospel stresses for us the profound importance of what God is offering us and how it should be THE priority in our lives to achieve it.

In one way or another, we are all treasure seekers, we all want something which will make us completely happy: today's message is that Jesus invites us to continue in this journey of exploration, the child-like curiosity is a spur for us to seek, renew our sense of wonder and awe and also to live the present moment to the full, as that is the means we are called upon to use to achieve this aim.

Jesus loves searchers and seekers and showed them great sympathy, even if they were looking in the wrong direction, he could feel their hunger and thirst and so could tap into them and point them in the right direction, as he does with the thoughtful lawyer and the young rich man who had great riches but was still seeking beyond them. The Kingdom is indeed a pearl of great price! Those who find it are indeed blessed, even if in the eyes of the world they appear foolish and poor – in the eyes of God they are indeed rich and wise! It is the knowledge that we are indeed children of God, with a divine dignity and eternal destiny: it means to know the meaning of life and how we are to live it. The chief purpose we have in life is not to be successful or even fulfilled – it is to live properly. How best are we to achieve this aim?

When we can feel a sense of the presence of God and the certainty of His love for us, then in the peace that is brought, we can feel joy in our minds and a true beauty to life itself. To get there we need to let go of all other things, in the sense that we do not depend on them for our happiness, we still need to make use of some of them! The establishment of closeness with God is key to this; it helps us see who we are and where we are going. We will not find all the answers through our faith, it is for us to seek and explore for them. These things can be revealed in holy settings as well as in the ordinary events of our lives, where we can also find joy, as we prepare for the fullness thereof at the end of time.

“Each day we cast our net into the sea of life and at the end of the day we have a catch, sometimes large, sometimes small. May we take time to sift through the catch and may you, Lord, give us wisdom to know what to keep and what to throw away.”