

# Sermon

- ◆ **First Reading:** *1 Kings 3:5-7*
- ◆ **Second Reading:** *Romans 8:28-30*
- ◆ **Gospel:** *Matthew 13:44-52*

The Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.....

What is your greatest treasure, something for which you would sell everything you own? No doubt we all have this little dream of what we would do if we won the lottery. Do you play the lottery regularly? While the numbers are being drawn, at least our dreams come alive for a few minutes, and that's about it ; Then of course when you eventually win a few million, you'd be suddenly amazed at how many "new friends" who just happen to show up!!!!

For parents, their treasure is of course their children, I see it every day, I never cease to admire good parents, they would be willing to die for love of their children ; these same parents during this Pandemic have shown themselves to be HEROES!!, may the children treasure their parents.

The question of TREASURE may mean different things for different people, it depends on what you are looking for ; during this outbreak of the COVID-19 it's interesting to hear people commenting on the state of their health ; though they may not use the term "treasure" but it's common to hear "thank God for my good health", this is in line with that other expression "your health is your wealth", too true, it's only when something seriously breaks down, then we come to our senses and see how we have taken our good health for granted ;

As I recall back in February 2014 I had to endure the excruciating pain of a kidney stone, the pain got so bad I actually asked God to take me ; When it had passed and the pain was gone I decided to take better care of my health, I thanked God that I was released from an agony I will never forget, the treasure of good health must never be taken for granted.

Getting back to that question WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST TREASURE?

In chapter 6 of st. Matthew's gospel Jesus makes another reference, He says **FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO...** that's interesting!! Even just to hear the sound of these few words and something "ignites" inside us somewhere, what could that be? ; The Lord is referring to spiritual treasure, but it comes at a price!!, "a price!!", "but what sort of a price"??, it'll cost you everything!, but it can't be bought, so then?? The Treasure is to place the Kingdom of God **FIRST** in your life ; but what does that mean in simple terms? It means to adhere completely and unconditionally to the First Great Commandment **TO LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, MIND AND SOUL** and to let nothing get in the way of that, but says you "now that's asking a lot", it certainly is!!, it's nothing short of the work of a lifetime, the heavenly treasure is being reserved for you in the Eternal Kingdom, a treasure to be enjoyed forever. Many have started out with enthusiasm in search of this spiritual treasure, their intentions were more than good, but as time moved on the first enthusiasms started to falter, it was a constant effort to stay within reach of the Treasure, then they had to start all over again, while others abandoned the quest.

In the context of these 2 short comparisons from to-day's Gospel, the hidden treasure and the pearl of great value, where do you and I stand?, it's worth doing a personal reflection ; the "constant effort" mentioned above refers to constant prayer, constant self sacrifice, and this constant healthy detachment from people, places and things! "WHAT?????"

Repeat! It's all or nothing if our YES to the Lord is to mean anything at all, we have to constantly LET GO of people, places and things, what do we have to let go of? Here's one way of putting it, the brutal reality of life shows us that the kids will grow up and go their separate ways, our best friends may not always be close by, they may have other plans and leave us with their e mail address and go their separate ways, along with our best buddy at work ; or suddenly a serious health issue surfaces which can radically change the routine of our lives, or that new wonderful car that was "a nine-day-wonder" up to last week is now in need of repair and not as shiny as it was on the day of purchase, so WHERE'S THE TREASURE in all this?, where's the PEARL OF GREAT VALUE?? IT'S our UNBROKEN SINCERE DAILY COMMITMENT TO JESUS THE SAVIOUR, with all the joys and heartaches that go with the Treasure, which some day will be consumed and enjoyed in the Eternal Kingdom ;

I'll leave you with that wonderful scenario from John 21, it was after breakfast on the shore of the sea of Tiberius, the Risen Christ takes Peter to one side and asks him 3 times **DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE OTHERS DO??**, Peter replied **YES LORD, YOU KNOW I LOVE .....**

This is the essence of the Treasure to be discovered, by loving the Lord **FIRST** over and above every one else and every thing else ;

**FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO**

LASTLY, the expression “a-nine-day-wonder” refers to something new in our lives, relationships included, that give us a great temporary “buzz”, as if, we're on top of the world, then that great feeling slowly disappears for various reasons ;

Can you think of your best “9-day-wonders”, enjoy the memories,

Don't we all need to enjoy a “9-day-wonder” occasionally? And so to keep life interesting!

Meantime stay healthy, pray for those who are doing their best to discover the meaning of their lives but can't seem to make progress,

May they eventually discover the Treasure of Faith, and the Pearl of inner peace that cannot be bought, borrowed nor sold ;

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