

DISCUSSION: Sunday Scripture Reading

QUESTION OF THE WEEK*

17th Ordinary Sunday

July 27, 2008

Breaking Open the Word:

STEP ONE: Listen to the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing--- Matthew 13:44-52

Theme: The reign of God is a treasure beyond price.

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

"Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." And he replied, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

QUESTION 1 (for families & children): If you could be with Jesus, what would you trade from your own things for that?

STEP TWO: Look into Your Life

QUESTION 2 (for adults): Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words what the Reign of God is for you personally, and use a parable to describe it. "The Reign of God is _____?"

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Reading I: [1 Kings 3: 5,7-12](#)

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.” Solomon answered: “O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father, David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?”

The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: “Because you have asked for this— not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right— I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you.”

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 119: 57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130](#)

R. (97a) Lord, I love your commands.

I have said, O LORD, that my part is to keep your words.

The law of your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Let your kindness comfort me according to your promise to your servants.

Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

For I love your command more than gold, however fine.

For in all your precepts I go forward; every false way I hate.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them.

The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Reading II [Romans 8:28-30](#)

Brothers and sisters:

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified;

[* The **Question of the Week** is from:

http://your.harcourtreligion.com/lifelong_catechesis/adults_gow_24.jsp by Bill Heubsch and
Scripture Readings are from **The New American Bible.**]