

Seventeenth Sunday Year A. 30th July 2023. What do You Treasure Most?

The past three Sunday's readings we had discussed about parables related to the kingdom of heaven. Today Jesus made three comparisons:

First, he compares the kingdom of God with: A treasure buried in a field which a person finds and hides again and out of joy goes and sells all his properties to purchase the land.

Second, He compares it with a merchant who searches for fine pearls. The merchant also sells all he had to purchase the pearls.

Third, he compares it with a net thrown in the sea by fisherman which collects fish of every kind.

The one thing that these three have in common is their total commitment to a dream. All of them expressed willingness to sacrifice everything for a goal they have set for themselves.

The point Jesus was making in the gospel is that citizenship in Gods kingdom involves total commitment on our part. It is not enough to have a dream but pursue the dream with commitment. Let it be a full-time effort not like a part-time job. Let it be our top priority, not just a hobby.

Being a Christian is like a Pearl merchant, is like a treasure seeker and a one who throws a net in the river and make a catch. In our Christian journey we need a total dedication to attain our dreams. Perhaps Jesus would have used something different to compare the kingdom of heaven in our time. May be good cars, beautiful houses, electronics. Things we cherish most. Beloved in Christ, it is not wrong to have a dream, but would that dream be a lasting one?

The moment the merchant dies his pearl becomes non-valuable. When the farmer dies, his treasure will be useless. When we cherish things of the world, one day they all vanish, but the kingdom of Heaven be forever.

It is possible to achieve the kingdom of Heaven even here. Saint Paul said, we know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. All that we need to achieve these is to employ wisdom, which Solomon asked God for in our first reading not material possession. When we have the wisdom then like the psalmist, we can confidently say Lord, I love your commands, and we will equally search for the real treasure, who is Jesus Christ. Sometimes we miss him because we do not find him in the right way. May the wisdom of Solomon be given to us to make our time searching for a good treasure.

Peace,

Fr. Jingbe Simon