

Fr Ryan Homily 7/30/23

Read: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Psalm 119; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

So this is true for me, and I think it's gotta be true for everybody, that so often we just don't know what to ask for from God. Like we know God wants us to have certain qualities, live a certain way and He calls us to be that way like now not like later. Let's not put that question off but to live for God now. We know the problem is maybe we look at ourselves and say okay this is the person I'm called to be but I'm not that person yet and I don't know how to do this, how to get there and that's why I love this first reading today. Here's Solomon, he's not a king yet, he's a youth, but his dad is the king, so he knows where his life is going, and the Lord appears to him in a dream and says what do you want from me. Ask me anything and I'll give it to you. And Solomon says okay like I get it I'm gonna be called to be this great king but I'm not yet. I will be called to rule this kingdom, but I don't know how. I know what I'm called to, but I can't do it. In this moment I'm gonna invite every single person here to realize you and I are in the same place as Solomon. In one way or another in each of our lives saying I know how you want me to be Lord, but I don't know how. Like I can see where you want me to go but I don't know the way to get there. I even have the desire, but I'm scared, and I don't know how to not let fear control me. I don't know how to act; I don't know how to be a saint. And that's why here's Solomon saying I know I have this call; I know I've been given this place in life, but I don't know how. And so he says Lord God I don't know how to rule a kingdom, I don't have wisdom, I don't know how to discern right from wrong, I need understanding. And the Lord God said because you've asked for this and not long life or riches or victories over your enemies, I'm gonna make you the most wise and understanding person who has ever lived. Solomon is given this incredible amount of wisdom. His mind became clear and sharp. He was so wise people would travel from everywhere around the world just to hear his wisdom. Cause he had this call and then he got the ability to know how to live up to his call. And here's the thing, I want that for all of us as well. I want the same thing for you cause do you realize when we don't think we have what it takes to live up to the call that so many of the things that hold you back that keep us from living out that call are actually false? That so many of the things that hold you back from doing great things are a result of our culture. This culture that has so low expectations of you but what God has are high expectations. What the

church has for you are high expectations. What the culture offers you is such low expectations and that's why in our culture and our country we have so many debates about things like gun control - everybody going back and forth. We have so many debates in our country in our culture over birth control. You know people always talking about gun control, talking about birth control, nobody's talking about self-control. And you know why? Because they have such low expectations for you. But they say no they can't control themselves. It's low expectations. And here's the church who says no no no you are more than that. Low expectations demean people. Low expectations don't allow virtue to rise up within somebody's heart. There's a story that I came across about a guy named David Farragut and David Farragut was the first admiral in the US Navy. But David didn't start going onto ships when he was 18 or 21 or in his 30's, David Farragut started working on his first ship when he was 9 years old. Like he was a cadet at 9 years old. So just imagine, some of you have a brother or sister, kids, grandkids that are 9 years old – imagine them becoming a cadet in basically the infancy of the US Navy. This is back in the early 1800's. Well why? Because the people around David had high expectations for him. They said actually David you do have what it takes and we're gonna pull that out of you. We're gonna show you that you have the ability to live up to this call. And when David Farragut was 12, three years after he was a cadet, he was in a battle where his ship, the ship that he was on, defeated and captured a British naval ship. And the captain of the US naval ship put this 12-year-old, David, in charge of the captured British ship and sent him onto it with the British crew still intact. And at one point the British captain sees this, and he said I'm not taking orders from a 12-year-old. He said I'm gonna go down into my quarters and retrieve my pistols. Because David Farragut, the 12-year-old, decided to show the captain honor by letting him keep his guns. And he's going to get his pistols and show that this – show this 12-year-old who's really in charge and at that point this 12-year-old looks at him and he says if you go get your pistols, when you come back on deck you will be dead. And I heard that the first time and I'm like that is awesome! But he said that. Like here's this 12-year-old standing up against a naval captain, but he did, and it was awesome. Why? Because here's this 12-year-old called to something great, and he lived up to that something great. Brothers and sisters the Lord is calling you to something great and He's asking you to live up to that something great. You know it doesn't matter how young you may be. You know the culture too often says you're too young to have any responsibility but

when you look at scripture you see how often God calls people when they're just kids. They're kids! And He places incredible responsibilities and tasks in their hands. But again so many of us may have that desire but one we listen to those low expectations that people have of us or maybe we just don't know how to fulfill that call. And that's why Solomon is praying Lord give me wisdom, give me learning, help me to understand. Here's what I guess I would invite all of us to do that if you don't know how to be that woman, if you don't know how to be that man you're called to be, you don't know how to live up to that saint that you're called to be, find someone who can teach you. Find someone who can show you how to be that saint, find someone who can help you be that man or that woman that you know that you're called to be, who can help you hear God's voice and discern His call. Maybe it's somebody in our family, maybe it's a friend, a mentor, a teacher, somebody. And on the other side, if someone comes to you to be that person for them – what an honor! Embrace it. Right they see something in you. Be that person who can show them they are the person they're called to be. Because this is no time to live a small life. Right it's no time to live up to someone's low expectations of you. It's no time to be mediocre. In fact in so many ways this is the story of the treasure in the field. Jesus tells a parable here about finding a treasure in a field and we all know what this is right? It's about finding Him. It's about finding Jesus. It's about finding the Kingdom of God. And the person who finds the treasure in the field, what does he do? He goes and he sells all that he has, and he buys that field. That is not the action of someone who goes halfway. That is not the action of someone who says I'm gonna be mediocre. Those are not the actions of someone trying to live up to someone else's low expectations of them. Those are the actions of someone who knows, who realizes who they're called to be and says that and nothing else. Right that or bust. That or why even try. It's either that or nothing. I was looking into something recently, have you guys ever heard of something called CrossFit? Like it's this really popular fitness health exercise formula, kinda a way of life. It's been around for like 20 years and it's really effective in kinda changing your lifestyle if you take it seriously. And there is this woman Katrin Davidsdottir who using CrossFit has won all sorts of championships all over the last couple of years. In all of these different categories this incredible athlete, at one point Katrin Davidsdottir is being interviewed. And she is considered the fittest woman on earth according to how CrossFit kinda measures these things. And during this interview she says this one line, she says

this, to be a champion – to be a champion means you can't have balance. To be a champion means you can't have balance. There's not a balance of work life and family life and relax life and training life no. To be a champion you can't have balance. And I guess we would take that, and we would say to be a saint you can't have balance. To be a saint means I'm all in. To be a saint actually means my heart loves Jesus more than anything else. It's not Jesus and, it's just Jesus. That my heart belongs to the church more than anything else, not the church and. Greatness requires this and you're called to greatness. Greatness requires this and you're called to greatness. So the question is what does your heart desire? Does your heart desire greatness? Or does your heart desire mediocrity? Does your heart desire to be the person you're called to be? Or does your heart desire something less? Something small because you get whatever your heart chooses. You get what your heart desires. And that's why it's so important to guard your heart. You know we saw in today's first reading how Solomon's life started out. Solomon's life starts out and he realized he is made for greatness, he's called to something that is beyond him, and he says I don't know how. And the Lord gives him understanding, incredible wisdom. But what happens later on in 1 Kings Chapter 11 is that King Solomon did not lead his heart, King Solomon did not guard his heart, King Solomon followed his heart, and it ended in disaster. 1 Kings Chapter 11 says King Solomon loved many foreign wives and when he was old his wives turned his heart to strange gods and his heart was not entirely with the Lord God. His heart was not entirely with the Lord God. Solomon, he started out so well and he ended like a fool because he followed his heart into bad places. Solomon's life ended in disaster. As a youth, as a young person, he was wise, and he was good. As an old man he was foolish and stupid and evil. Why? Because he was not careful with what he loved. Brothers and sisters please please please hear me – be careful what you love. Be careful what you give your heart to because that possibly more than anything else will determine the course of your life. Be careful what you give your heart to and who you give your heart to because that possibly more than anything else will determine the course of your life. But be willing. Be willing to take this step and it's the step to say I am made for something more than this. I'm made for that treasure in the field, for that kingdom, for God Himself. And then be willing to do what a champion does, be willing to do what a saint does, and to not have balance when it comes to your heart. And what it belongs to and who it belongs to. And then to not have balance when it comes to

guarding your heart. Because you see so much of what wisdom is, having wisdom, is knowing you're not to have balance. And at the same time being careful with what and who you love. Let's ask the Lord to pour His wisdom into our hearts today so that we don't follow our hearts but can lead and guard our hearts in Christ.

Amen