

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday – yr A

We hear in the 1<sup>st</sup> reading today, God in his mercy, is offering Solomon anything he wish for, but he only ask for an understanding heart to have the wisdom to judge right from wrong. The Lord was pleased with Solomon because he didn't ask for anything worldly that would better himself. In the book of Kings, <sup>KINGS</sup> it says no other king would compare with Solomon in all his days. ~~It~~ <sup>It</sup> also tells us Solomon was not self-centered with his wisdom plus he was honest and made wise decisions for the good of the people. We can only imagine what the world would be like, if the Wisdom of Solomon was instilled in the leadership of every nation today on earth; what the world would be like, how much better it would be today. I think one of the lessons we can take away from the story of Solomon is that, when we ask God for favors, we must also be practical and follow Solomon's example to not always ask for something for ourselves, <sup>OR WORDLY GOODS</sup> but include favors for others in our prayers. We read in the bible how some of the early Christians also looked out for one another and took care of others needs. And we also see a similar example in the gospel. Jesus tells us the kingdom of God is lightened to a treasure which a person happens upon in a field. This gospel parable takes me back to early grade school and reminds me about a book I believe which was published in the early part of the last century by the novelists, Robert Louis Stevenson and the book was called Treasure Island. It was about a young lad named Jim who found a map of a buried treasure and he set out with friends to locate the treasure. Young Jim thought if he could locate the buried treasure it would bring him wealth and great happiness.

But in the end, the story turns in another direction, since it was a very sad tale of just and greed. In the story young Jim learned a valuable lesson, and that is to not look for an easy way to get rich, and in this case he failed miserably and just what you might suspect, the story takes a turn for the worst, and it only brought Jim misery and distress. I believe it's the same in the world today, some people are looking for true peace and happiness and don't know where to find it. As far as that goes, I believe without a reasonable doubt, some people don't even know the reason for their own existence on earth. Some seek fame and riches or worldly goods. As Christians, we definitely know why we are here and how we are to help build the kingdom of God on earth. In so doing, unlike some, we also know that true joy and happiness only comes from serving God and obeying his word. And in another example, we hear about another parable in the gospel. It tells us the kingdom of God is likened to a pearl. In ancient times, it has been said that a black pearl ranks right up there with precious metals such as gold and silver. In those days, if you had a black pearl, it was a symbol of wealth. And in the gospel story the merchant knows exactly what he is searching for and that is that fine black pearl. When he finds a pearl of that great magnitude, he sells all he owns, in order to attain this costly pearl. This costly pearl in the story is used as a symbol of the Kingdom of God. These stories bring out the point that the Kingdom of God is what we are seeking and striving for in our life and it is where we find true love and happiness in our heart. These parables from the gospel today describe the kingdom of heaven as our ultimate goal which nothing else in our life can compare. The Kingdom of God is here and now, and while we are alive and able, we

must help to do our part to help build God's kingdom here on earth. There are many things and examples we can use to show how we are can work toward this goal. I think the point can be made, whenever we do good works or kind deeds we are helping ourselves and others to build the Kingdom. At the final judgment, I don't think we will be asked, what did your neighbor do, but more on the line, what did you do, what good did you do to help build the kingdom? "