

## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time - Year A

There is a television show called "The Price Is Right." Have you ever seen it? It has been on television for more than fifty years! The contestants on the show are shown an item and then they try to guess how much the item costs. The one who guesses closest to the actual price without going over wins the prize. I thought it would be fun to play "The Price Is Right." I brought a package of cookies. Oreo cookies! On the back of the package there is a tag with the price of the cookies. We will see how close you can come to guessing the price without going over the correct price.

- If you think that the price of these cookies is MORE than \$4.00, raise your hand. You are out of the game because these cookies do not cost more than \$4.00.
- If you think the price of these cookies is LESS than \$2.00, raise your hand. You are out of the game - these cookies cost more than \$2.00.
- If you think the price of these cookies is MORE than \$3.00, raise your hand. If you raised your hand, you are still in the game. This package of cookies does cost more than \$3.00.
- Next, I am going to call out a price, If I call out the price that you think is the right price of the cookies, raise your hand.
- \$3.19 - No, you're out of the game.                      \$3.29 - No, you're out of the game.
- \$3.39 - Yes! These cookies cost \$3.39. If your hand is up, you are a winner! You have won the cookies, but I am sure that you'll share them at coffee after Mass.

These cookies are good, but \$3.39 is a lot of money for a package of cookies, isn't it? Are they worth it? Perhaps there is another package of cookies that would be just as good for less money. **Every day, we have to make choices about the value of things.** We ask ourselves, "How much am I willing to pay?"

- Jesus tells a story about a man who found a treasure hidden in a field. He was so happy that he sold everything he had and bought the field to get the treasure
- Jesus told about another man who went in search of fine pearls. When he found a perfect pearl, he sold everything that he had to buy the pearl.
- These men in the Gospel found something that they thought was worth giving up everything they owned so that they could have it.
  - Jesus wasn't talking about buried treasure or pearls
  - He was talking about the kingdom of heaven.
  - The kingdom of heaven is more precious than silver, gold, or jewels.
  - That is why Jesus calls us to give up all that we have and follow him.
  - **But** the Kingdom is not about giving stuff up
    - When Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment
    - LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR

- No Thou shall not's
- Augustine "Love God & do what you want"
- As God's Beloved we seek His Kingdom
  - By loving God – and our neighbor
  - Because both are precious – and so are we.