

17th Sunday Ordinary Time - Year A

- The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night.
God said, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.”
 - Can you imagine!
 - Solomon asked for Wisdom -- What would you ask for?

Get rid of all my problems – bills, grumpy boss, ...
(Get out of here)
- Jesus tells a story about a man who wanted treasure, and found one in a field.
 - He was so happy that he sold everything he had and bought the field so that the treasure would be his.
- Jesus told about another man who wanted fine pearls.
 - When he found a pearl that was the very best, he sold everything that he had so that he could buy the pearl.
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- **Things we want have value – and we give them their value**
 - What you might find value can be different from what I do
 - Junk – 2nd hand – Antique → dependent upon how you value it
 - I put stuff out as trash that gets picked up by others (we take bets)
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- The problem is – we tend to do this with people too
 - Today’s hero is tomorrow’s goat (Manny Ramirez – is he worth \$20M)
 - How about your cell mates – some of you are happy, some not
 - How do we put a ‘value’ on other people?
 - How do we put a ‘value’ on ourselves?
 - I look at myself some days as a total screw up.
 - I’m no good – I’ve screwed up – I’m in prison

- The truth is – WE ARE GOD’S BELOVED

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- These men in the Gospel found something that they thought was worth giving 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.

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- But the Kingdom is not about giving stuff up
 - When Jesus was asked 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.