

- For the last few weeks Jesus has been teaching in parables about **KOG** **INTRO**
 - KOG is like seed sown on rocky path – thorns – or fertile ground
 - KOG is like seed growing up alongside weeds
 - **TODAY** KOG is like a treasure found in a field – give up all to get it
 - KOG is like a pearl of great price – give up all to get it
 - KOG is like a dragnet, good are kept, bad are cast aside
 - **WATCH THIS** – after 3 weeks of KOG parables
 - In the first reading Solomon asks for an Understanding Heart
 - In the Gospel, after all these parables JC asks ‘Do You Understand?’
 - Do **WE** understand? It’s important.
 - You don’t need Wisdom of Solomon to get it **LET US PRAY**

1KGS

- 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) **READ IT**
- Early Church was like Solomon in 1st reading
 - “A mere youth, not knowing how to act” (just like SOL)
 - God gave them Wisdom – (just like SOL) - **and to us**
 - There are 2 things going on here:
 1. Things God does – like giving us Wisdom
 2. Things we do – using the Wisdom
- NB – We are the People of God – made in the image and likeness – His beloved
 - Wisdom and Understanding are available to us
 - We have the 10 commandments & JC's new commandment – LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOR
 - What we do with the commandments makes a difference
 - SOL screwed up and lost the kingdom
 - We have a choice too – God's commandments are given to us out of love
 - NOT external laws forced upon us
 - But laws we internalize as our own because they're given in love, out of love
 - **THUS PS119** **READ IT – longest Psalm & note verses (one message)**
 - law is precious... let your kindness comfort me... I love your cmdnd... wonderful
 - pattern is the commandments of God are a source of comfort
 - I said we are People of God – called – chosen – beloved
 - **THUS ROM 8** **READ IT**
 - Rom 8 – Predestined, we are called from creation (*will we respond?*)
 - Called, we are justified (*called by God, justified thru J.*)
 - Justified, we are glorified (*eternity in KOG is our destiny*)
 - **Thus Rom says “All things work for the good for those who love God”**
 - **ALL THINGS – Alleluia! THAT'S WHY TODAY'S PARABLES ARE DIFF.**
 - **GOSPEL** **READ IT**
- KOG is like a treasure found in a field – give up all to get it

- KOG is like a pearl of great price – give up all to get it
- KOG is like a dragnet, good are kept, bad are cast aside
- WATCH THIS – see what MT is teaching US
- KOG is like a treasure – hidden for a long time (yet still precious) *already waiting for us*
- KOG is like a pearl – hidden for a long time (also precious) *already waiting for us*
- but then KOG is like a dragnet, SERIOUS QUESTION – *what to keep/discard*
 - “what is useless they throw away”
- **Things we want have value – and we give them their value**
 - What you might find value can be different from what I do
 - Junk – or an Antique → dependent upon how you value it
 - I put stuff out as trash that gets picked up by others (we take bets)
- The problem is – we tend to do this with people too
 - Today’s hero is tomorrow’s goat (Sandoval – was he worth \$20M)
 - How about your cell mates – some of you are happy, some not
 - How do we put a ‘value’ on people?
 - How do we put a ‘value’ on ourselves?
 - I look at myself some days as a total screw up.
 - Inmate “I’m no good – I’ve screwed up – I’m in prison”
 - The truth is – WE ARE GOD’S BELOVED – ROM 8 **Predestined**
- 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, 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 secret is that the Kingdom is not about giving stuff up
 - When Jesus was asked the greatest commandment
 - LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR
 - No Thou shalt 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.**