

Wisdom and Kingdom of God for July 26, 2020

1 Kings 3: 5-12; Psalm 119; Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 13: 44-48

This Sunday's readings begin with Solomon's request for Wisdom and conclude with a summation of the Lord's teaching on the parables. At the conclusion of the parables, Jesus says: "Every scribe of the Kingdom is like the head of the household who brings out from his storeroom both the new and the old." The Gospel of Matthew was specially intended for the Jewish Christians. He presents Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Jesus teaches us that the most important wealth for us is the kingdom of God. Any person who understand its value will renounce everything else to attain this great wealth. The wise person knows how to get the most valuable pearl for himself/herself, that is, the kingdom of God.

How do we leave the past life to live the present? According to the Russian poet/philosopher, Yevgeny Aleksandrovich Yevtushenko, wisdom is to know, "The trick of handling the past and to know what should be brought with us and what should be left behind". For example, within the Church, we should bring with us from the past, devotion to the sacraments, devotion to the Mother of God, willingness to hold the importance and stability of the Catholic Family, instil firm standards of morality, and have a determination to practice the faith. What should we leave behind, would include the subordination of the laity, the repression of the roles of women in religious matters, the glorification of the clergy, and the diminishing of the study of Sacred Scripture.

Whenever we look back on our lives and note numerous positive and negative experiences of our lives, we should apply Jesus' teachings and principle of mercy to us and to others. First of all, stop persecuting ourselves by the negatives of our past. At the same time, it is not pride to recognize the

achievements, or talents we have had in our lives. For example, a person who has lived and an immoral life or wayward life in the past can be a changed person. How? Perhaps, a different religious experience, or a tragedy of a life threatening illness, could change that person from his/her lifestyle and become a different person now. Or any person who decided to get married and to live a beneficial life for oneself and others might live a changed life of integrity. Naturally that person will grow up in spirituality and might determine to live a new, dedicated Christian lifestyle.

Anyone married need to be generous in considering his/her relationship with the partner. As human being everyone makes mistakes. To err is human and to repent is divine. So, leave your past behind and live as partners who are supportive and caring. Live your present and help others to live their present. Despite all your hard work and efforts to leave the past to live the present, you might fail. Approach the sacrament of confession and have sacramental graces from the Lord. In the attempt of overcoming a crisis, try not to overlook all the good you have done for each other and the growth you have achieved as a loving couple. Some people are too quick to give up on marriage and end up realizing what they have lost was the real pearl of their life.

Solomon prayed for wisdom. It takes wisdom to combat the challenges of life. It takes wisdom to be a good parent, a good husband, a good wife, a good priest, a good child or a good person. It takes wisdom to discern what needs to be brought into the present and what needs to be left in the past. Where do we get this wisdom? We will get it from the same place where Solomon received, ie. From God! Kingdom of God is within you! May God bless you! +++ Amen. Fr. Thomas