



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

In recognizing himself to be “a mere youth” becoming king of Israel, how does Solomon present himself to God?

Solomon understands the vastness of God’s people and his own limitations in being able to govern them. It is from this place that he turns to God for His grace. Do you meet God in prayer with similar humility and dependence as Solomon? What parts of your life do you need to surrender to God’s grace and governance?

Above a long life, riches and power, Solomon desired and asked God for wisdom. How do your prayers reflect what you prioritize in your life? Being honest with God about what you desire, ask the Spirit to order your intentions properly according to His perfect will.

Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

How do you receive God’s commands? Are they precious to you, or do they often feel like a set of restrictive rules?

The Psalmist proclaims that God’s Word and commands are more valuable than gold and silver. What things do you tend to prize over the Lord’s commands? In what practical ways can we demonstrate the value of God’s wisdom over material wealth?

Romans 8:28-30

Paul expresses great trust in God’s providence knowing that “all things work for good for those who love God.” How does this challenge the ways in which you personally evaluate the ‘goodness’ of a situation? Can you name a time when an initially difficult circumstance ultimately led to good in your life?

Though our time on Earth is ongoing, Christ, in His life, death, and Resurrection, has already done the work to justify and glorify us in Him. How has the Sacramental life allowed you to access this justification and glory? How can you practically renew your commitment to the Sacraments in order to be better in touch with God’s grace?

Collect

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation,
nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

The person in the parable, upon finding the treasure buried in the field, sells all he has for it “out of joy.” What causes such sacrifice and surrender to be done with joy? What in your life have you been prevented from joyfully surrendering for the sake of the Kingdom?

While the one in the field happened upon the treasure, the merchant was actively “searching for fine pearls.” When have you encountered God’s grace from actively seeking it and when have you received it more as a surprise discovery? How do you respond to and integrate both encounters into your life?