

Ordinary 17A - 2026

My treasure is apple pie

Little Mary listened intently in Sunday school while the teacher explained the parable of the "treasure" and "pearl" and gave a detailed description of eternal bliss in Heaven. She concluded her class asking the question, *"All those who are ready to go to Heaven, raise your hands."* Every hand went up except one. *"Don't you want to go to Heaven, Mary?"* asked the teacher. *"Not this minute,"* Mary replied, *"Mom was baking apple pie when I left home!"*

Which is more valuable, Harry or the deer?

Some friends who went deer-hunting separated into pairs for the day. That night one hunter returned alone, staggering under an eight-point deer. "Where's Harry?" asked another hunter. "Oh, he fainted a couple of miles up on the trail," Harry's partner answered. "And you left him lying there all alone and carried the deer back?" "A tough call," said the hunter, "but I figure no one's going to steal Harry." — Our Scripture for this Sunday is about discerning and choosing the right path and course of action at the right time, so that we may fully receive and freely share the love of Christ and so inherit the kingdom of God, a treasure everyone is invited to possess and warned not to lose. (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

There is a price for relationship

Rabindra Nath Tagore, the mystic poet of India, tells a memorable story from his own life which illustrates the truth of what Jesus teaches in today's Gospel, namely, that there is a price we have to pay in order to be in his Kingdom, to keep a relationship with him. Tagore's cook and housekeeper did not come to work on time one morning. Like so many professional men of his mind-set, Tagore was utterly helpless when it came to the routine details of the day, getting his clothes together, making his breakfast, tidying up his place. An hour went by, and Tagore was getting angrier by the minute. He thought of all kinds of punishment. Three hours later he no longer thought of punishment. He would discharge the man without any further consideration, get rid of him, turn him out. Finally, the man showed up. It was mid-day. Without a word, the servant proceeded with his duties as though nothing had happened. He picked up Tagore's clothes and set to making breakfast. Then he started cleaning. Tagore watched all of this with mounting rage. Finally, he said, *"Drop everything! Get out! I can't stand the sight of you. You are dismissed...fired!"* The man, however, continued sweeping, and after another, few

minutes, with quiet dignity he said, "My little girl died last night." (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

God is in charge:

Henry Ford (1863-1947) was the famous American motor manufacturer who pioneered large-scale motor production. He was the founder of the Ford Motor Company. A man, who went to interview Mr. Ford when he was very old, was surprised to find him calm and serene. The interviewer asked him, "Sir, are you not worried in your life? You have to face so many problems every day and deal with so many workers. Don't you feel the strain on yourself?" Henry Ford replied, "No! I am not worried. I believe that God is managing the affairs and He doesn't need my advice. With God in charge, I believe that everything will work for the best in the end." - "All things work for good for those who love God" (Rom 8:28), assures St. Paul in today's second reading. (John Rose in John's Sunday Stories; quoted by Fr. Botelho). (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

My Dog Saw a Rabbit

There is a story from the Desert Fathers about a young monk who asked one of the old men of the desert why it is that so many people came out to the desert to seek God and yet most of them gave up after a short time and returned to their lives in the city. The old monk told him, "Last evening my dog saw a rabbit running for cover among the bushes of the desert and he began to chase the rabbit, barking loudly. Soon other dogs joined in the chase, barking and running. They ran a great distance and alerted many other dogs. Soon the wilderness was echoing the sounds of their pursuit but the chase went on into the night. After a little while, many of the dogs grew tired and dropped out. A few chased the rabbit until the night was nearly spent. By morning, only my dog continued the hunt. "Do you understand," the old man said, "what I have told you?" "No," replied the young monk, "please tell me father." "It is simple," said the desert father, "my dog saw the rabbit."

Jesus told a parable about a man who one day in the market place saw the pearl of great price. The merchant understood at once the value of the commodity before him and he sacrificed everything to obtain it. (by Brett Blair from www.eSermons.com)