

TWENTY- EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME OCT. 10, 2021

*I am sure you remember the story of Solomon in the Hebrew Scriptures. He was given the choice of asking for whatever he wanted from God. He chose **Wisdom**. God praised him and granted his wish.*

*Our first reading today says **Wisdom** is of greater value than a throne, riches, gold, silver, even health and good looks.*

*Our Psalm response, Psalm 90, has us praying to keep in mind the shortness of earthly life that we may gain **wisdom** of heart.*

*And the **wisdom** being taught in today's Gospel is not to cling to money or anything else that prevents us from following Jesus with all our hearts.*

*"You are lacking in one thing," Jesus says to the rich young man. And that one thing was the **wisdom** to realize that things, money, and wealth, do not satisfy the hungers of the heart. He went away sad because he trusted in his many possessions to bring him happiness. It was an **unwise** choice because happiness is only found by trusting in and following Christ.*

***For the sake** of our own spiritual growth, let us imagine ourselves like the young man in today's gospel kneeling before Jesus, and in response to our question of what we must do to inherit Eternal Life He responds, "**You are lacking in one thing.**" What is that one thing?*

*Is it: **Faith?** That is, really believing that all things are possible with God and therefore we do not need to cling to our time and Treasure.*

***Hope?** That is, are we lacking in childlike trust that lets go of anxiety, worry, fear, and discouragement?*

***Love?** That is, is our circle of love exclusive or conditional according to our likes and dislikes or is it all inclusive and unconditional like Jesus? Blessed Pope John XXIII and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta are two wonderful examples of people who loved everyone without exception with open arms.*

***The important thing** is not what we are lacking. The important thing is that like the rich young man we have the desire to improve, to grow to be more than we are now, and unlike him to have the **wisdom**, which God freely gives to all those who ask Him, to follow Jesus wholeheartedly.*

And in that regards, may we all recognize ourselves in the story about the girl who hurried home from school proud as she had all "As" on her report card. Her Dad looked it over for a while in silence and then said, "Well done, Sweetheart, but there is still room for improvement. "