

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 • Romans 8:28-30 • Matthew 13:44-52



The Pearl of Great Price



Every human heart longs for something that gives life meaning. People pour themselves into careers, possessions, hobbies, or relationships, often becoming consumed by whatever captures their desire. Yet today's Gospel rocks our foundations: Christ reveals that the only treasure worth giving everything for is the Kingdom of God. Jesus likens it to a hidden treasure or a pearl of great price, which is so valuable that one joyfully sells all else to obtain it.

This is not merely a call to admire the kingdom but to reorder our lives around it. The man who finds the treasure does not hesitate or grieve over what he gives up; he sells everything with joy, knowing the exchange is infinitely worth it. Likewise, discipleship demands a radical reorientation of priorities. When God's reign grips our hearts, lesser obsessions fall away, and we find the peace and joy that no possession or passing pleasure can offer.

The story of Solomon in today's first reading illustrates this wisdom. Solomon does not ask for wealth, long life, or power from God. He asks for an understanding heart to discern right from wrong. His request reveals that he treasures God's wisdom above all else, and God is pleased to grant it. True wisdom lies in desiring God himself more than any created thing.

St. Paul assures us that "all things work together for good for those who love God" (Romans 8:28). This promise does not mean that life will be easy, but everything in life can serve our sanctification when God's Kingdom is our greatest pursuit.

To live as disciples is to place Christ at the center of every decision, every longing, and every relationship. When we truly see the surpassing worth of the kingdom, we will not cling to the fleeting pearls of this world. We will joyfully give all to gain the one treasure that endures.

Living the Gospel

This week, choose one concrete way to place the Kingdom of God first. It may mean prioritizing prayer over entertainment, giving more generously of your resources, or making a decision based not on comfort but on faith. Let this act be a step toward making God your true treasure.

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlrr_QxWYtk

Ponder and Pray

» What “pearls” or treasures of this world most often compete with Christ’s reign in your life? How might he be inviting you to loosen your grip on them?

» Solomon asked for wisdom above all else. If God were to ask you today, “What do you desire most?” what would be your honest answer?

» Joy marked the man who sold everything for the treasure. Do you experience joy in following Christ, or do you find yourself clinging to worldly attachments? What does this reveal about your heart?

Make It Your Own

You and others in your household may use this space to write anything about today’s Mass. It might be your view of Jeff Cavins’s reflection, your priest’s homily, or your answers to the questions on this page—anything to help you and your household get the most of today’s Mass.

“ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ”
—Romans 8:28
