

JULY 30, 2017



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



1 KINGS 3:5, 7-12

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

ROMANS 8:28-30

MATTHEW 13:44-52 OR 13:44-46

REFLECTION

Imagine this: one night you are awakened by the sound of an alarm ringing in your home. Your house is on fire. With no time to spare, what would be the one thing that you would grab on your way out? Material items come and go; what is truly important to take with you? Today's Gospel reading offers a series of brief parables from Jesus. The first few follow a similar pattern: seeking and finding something that is precious, followed by a selling of one's own goods, and ultimately buying the prized commodity. Through these parables, Jesus is telling us that entry into the Kingdom of heaven requires all of these steps. Finding a precious gift or being caught in Jesus' net is just the first step. We are asked to sell what is most important to us in order to purchase the fullness of what is being offered to us—the gift of being welcomed in to Jesus' Kingdom. So, what is it that you would grab as you are exiting the burning building? Are you willing to offer it up to Jesus in order to receive the reward? How do you continue that moment of initial revelation, the finding of the gift or being caught in Christ's net, and expand upon it in order to experience the Kingdom?



"BUILD YOUR
KINGDOM HERE"

**READ COLLECTIVE
EXPERIMENT**

ACTION

Make a conscious effort this week to parcel out some of the things in your life that may be distracting or take up a lot of your time. These may include watching TV, texting, or spending time on social media. Give up your phone for a couple of days. Make an effort to spend some quality time this week with your family and friends, away from technology. Also, spend some of that time that you would normally spend doing other things and pick up your Bible. Read some Scripture. Enter into some prayer with what you read.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● Reflect upon a moment in which you experienced the "hook" of Jesus' presence in your life. What did this finding of something precious feel like? How did you respond to this initial experience of revelation? What still needs to be done to work toward the Kingdom of heaven?