

THE HIDDEN TREASURE AND THE PEARL OF GREAT VALUE

If God appeared to you in a dream, as he did to King Solomon, and said, *“Whatever you ask of me, I shall give you”*, what would you ask for?

In this Sunday Reading taken from **1Kings 3:5-12** we read that Solomon did not ask for more riches, or power, or any other material goods. Because he realized that on his own he could not govern God’s people as he ought, he asked what only God could provide: the ability to discern right from wrong, good from evil.

Of course, God rewarded King Solomon also with all the riches, the power and the glory he had not asked for (v.13).

What about you? – What’s important to you? - What do you really need?

The answers to these questions are within our hearts: we long for happiness, for peace, for love. We search for them everywhere and anywhere, but in vain. On our own, we cannot satisfy these longings. Only God, our loving Father can. In fact *“he loved us so much that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16).

In the Gospel (Matthew 13:44-46) Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a “hidden treasure” and to “a pearl of great value” that a man finds, and sells all that he has and buys them.

So many people have given witness that, after a long search and an empty life, filled with despair and disappointments, they finally found **in Jesus** the *“hidden treasure”* they had been looking for, and *“the pearl of great value”* for which they decided to let go of their past, and change their life around. (Matthew 13:44-46).

The *“hidden treasure”* is also the *Eucharistic Jesus in the Tabernacle* who wants to give himself to those who seek him. He is also *“the pearl of great value”* who wants to be possessed by all, so he can pour out on them the riches of his love and mercy.

Mary, our Immaculate Mother, pray for us, that we may always place Jesus at the centre of our life, and love him above all and above everyone. AMEN.

