

[104] **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** A

**FIRST READING**

You have asked for wisdom.

A reading from the first book of Kings 3:5, 7-12

**O**ne night at Gibeon, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said,  
“Ask me for anything you want.”

Solomon answered,  
“My Lord and God, I am your servant.  
You have made me king in place of my father David.  
But I don’t know any more about being king than a child would know.  
And I must serve your chosen people,  
    even though they are a great nation  
        with more people than can be counted.  
Please make me wise enough to rule them well  
    and know the difference between right and wrong.  
No one is really able to rule this great nation of yours.”

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked this, and he said:  
“I will answer your prayer.  
You will be wise and know more than anyone who has ever lived  
    or ever will live.  
You didn’t ask to live a long time or to be rich,  
    and you didn’t ask for your enemies to be destroyed.  
All you wanted was to be honest and fair.”

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

119:57 and 72, 127-128

*R. (97a) Lord, I love your commands.*

You, Lord, are my choice,  
and I will obey you.  
I would rather obey you  
than to have a thousand pieces of silver and gold.

*R. Lord, I love your commands.*

Your laws mean more to me  
than the finest gold.  
I follow all of your commands,  
but I hate anyone  
who leads me astray.

*R. Lord, I love your commands.*

## **SECOND READING**

God predestined us to become true images of his Son.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 8:28-30

**B**rothers and sisters:

We know that God is always at work  
for the good of everyone who loves him.  
They are the ones God has chosen for his purpose,  
and he has always known who his chosen ones would be.  
He had decided to let them become like his own Son,  
so that his Son would be the first of many children.  
God then accepted the people he had already decided to choose,  
and he has shared his glory with them.

The word of the Lord.

## **ALLELUIA**

See Matthew 11:25

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL**

He sold all that he had and bought the field.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 13:44-46

**J**esus said to his disciples:

“The kingdom of heaven is like what happens  
when someone finds treasure hidden in a field  
and buries it again.

A person like that is happy and goes and sells everything  
in order to buy that field.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like what happens  
when a shop owner is looking for fine pearls.

After finding a very valuable one,  
the owner goes and sells everything  
in order to buy that pearl.”

The gospel of the Lord.

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Opening prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God, your presence in this world makes everything holy and gives value to everything. Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us and share your blessings with our brothers and sisters. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

### Readings:

Kings 3:5, 7-12

PSALM 119:57 and 72, 127-128

Romans 8:28-30

Matthew 13:44-46

### Opening Reflection

Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of will and focus. The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure. In this parable what does the treasure of the kingdom refer to? It certainly refers to the kingdom of God in all its aspects. But in a special way, the Lord himself is the treasure we seek for.

The theme for today serves as a reminder that the treasure of God's presence is hidden in our midst. Jesus teaches in parables that offer images to understand God's kingdom.

Make the point that the story in today's Gospel teaches us the unmatched value of the Lord's Kingdom. A person is brought into the Kingdom by Christ's gift of salvation. When a person is saved, they will have the knowledge of God through Jesus Christ. This person can experience the preciousness of being in the Kingdom and the friendship of Jesus. The blessedness of the Kingdom is so valuable that a person would have to be foolish to not be willing to sell everything to gain it. Nothing comes close in value. Christ and His Kingdom are a treasure that is rich beyond comparison.

### Listening to the Word of God

In the Gospel today listen a story of how a person acted when they found a treasure.

Read Matthew 13: 44-46

*(Continue on page 2)*

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

### Scripture Discussion Starters

Invite the children to brainstorm:

- What is the most important object the child possesses?
- What would they do if the object were lost? [Emphasize the effort the child would make to find or retrieve their precious treasure].
- What does Jesus mean to me?
- What one action have I done to show I love Jesus?

### Scripture Background

Pearls were the equivalent of what diamonds are today. They were the most valuable gem in the world at that time. If you owned pearls, you owned a fortune.

It is incredible what was involved in pearl hunting. Pearls were found in the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Indian Ocean. The price to pay in obtaining them was great--many people died from pearl hunting. They did not have the equipment that is available today for pearl diving. Rather, a pearl diver would tie rocks to his body, jump over the side of a little boat, go down into the dangerous waters infested with sharks and other creatures, and scour the mud below for oysters. A pearl diver had to hold his breath during the whole dive, and hope that he wouldn't burst and die.

The Egyptians actually worshiped the pearl, and the Romans copied that practice. When women wanted to show their wealth, they put pearls in their hair (1 Tim. 2:9). The wife of the Roman emperor Caligula once went to a dinner party with pearls on her hair, ears, neck, and fingers that would be worth \$36 million today. It is said that Cleopatra had two pearls that were each worth half a million dollars at that time.

### Activity

See attached sample activities

### Prayers of Intercessions:

Let us pray for the Church, may seeking God's presence be shown in loving service to others.

Let us pray for the world, may more and more people find the treasure of God's love and share it with others.

Let us pray for those in need, may they experience God's loving care at this time.

Let us pray for [name your parish] faith community, may they freely give to others the joy and gratitude that they have received from God.

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

### COLORING

Have children color the attached page while the story is being read. Explain how a pearl is formed deep inside a shell.

### MAZE

Have the children spend time finding their way through the maze. Discuss if this was easy or hard for them. What made it easy or hard.

### WORD SEARCH

There are two word searches. First review the words the children will be searching so they gain an understanding. Then distribute according to age ability.

### CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD OR CIRCLE TRUE OR FALSE

1. The kingdom of heaven is like [com, treasure] hidden in a field.
2. And a person that is [happy, upset] goes and [rents, sells] everything.
3. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a shop owner looking for:
  - Diamonds
  - Rubies
  - Pearls
  - Wheat
4. "... who **sells** everything to buy the pearl." TRUE or FALSE

# PARABLES OF THE TREASURE & THE PEARL

(MATTHEW 13:44-46)



“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”

**Matthew 13:44**

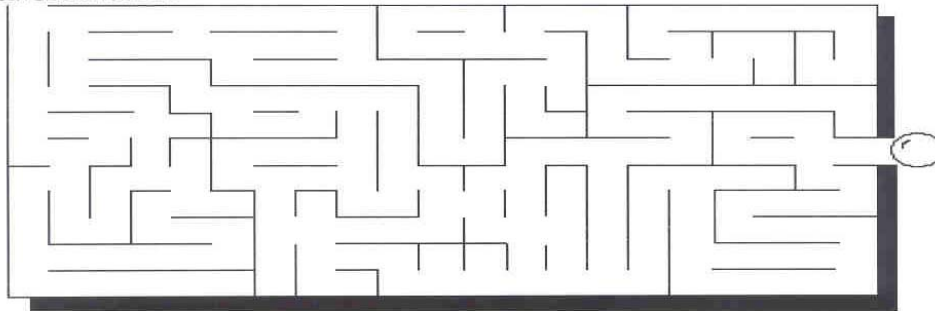
# PARABLES OF THE TREASURE & THE PEARL

## (MATTHEW 13:44-46)

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 Q H O Y L K E E S P L Q O F B C A D Q W D N F W F O F H T Q  
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BEAUTIFUL PEARLS	HIDDEN	MERCHANT
BUYS	HID	ONE PEARL
FIELD	JOY	PARABLES
FOUND	KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	SELLS
GREAT PRICE	MAN	TREASURE

*BEGIN SEEKING HERE*





# PARABLES OF THE TREASURE & THE PEARL

## (MATTHEW 13:44-46)

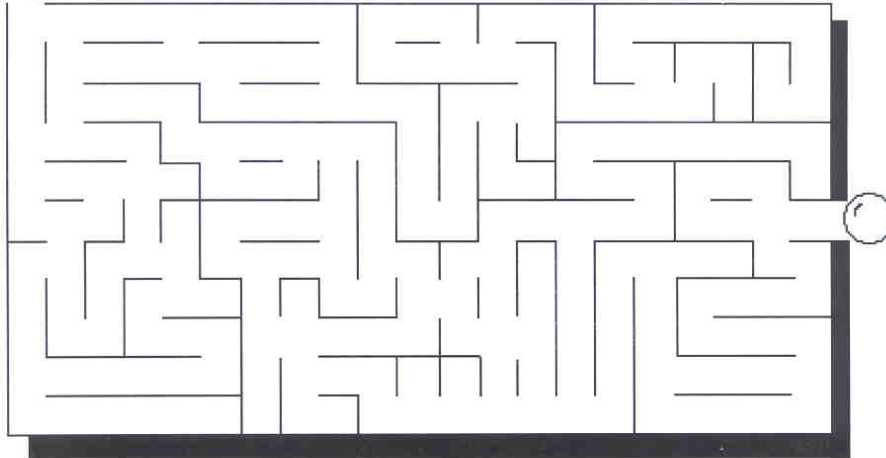
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BUYS  
 FIELD  
 FOUND  
 GREAT PRICE  
 HIDDEN

HID  
 JOY  
 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN  
 MAN

PARABLES  
 PEARL  
 SELLS  
 TREASURE

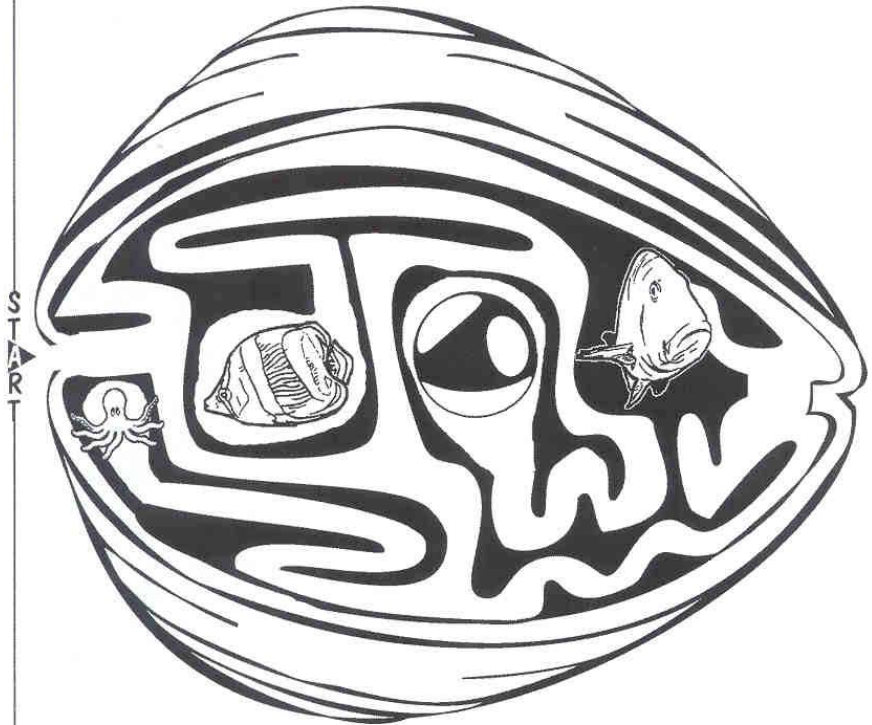
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Parable

## The Priceless Pearl

Work through the maze and find the priceless pearl.  
Then you can colour in the maze!



Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven was like a man who traded in pearls. When he found a very special pearl which was beautiful and very valuable, he quickly sold all that he owned to buy it. It was so important and valuable to him that nothing else was worth keeping. That is how important it is to be with Jesus!

maxipraise  
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