



Seventeenth Sunday in the Ordinary Time

In the Book of kings, Solomon is offered anything at all he wishes from God. There are no conditions set for him. He can ask for the riches of the world or a mighty army of warriors or a long life but instead seeks from God; an understanding heart. This heart able to judge right from wrong in order to govern the vast people in his care. God is pleased with Solomon's request. He grants it so fully that no one before or after him will possess such a heart. God's pleasure comes in hearing that Solomon's wish focuses on others rather than himself. There is no request for a foretelling of the future but rather a trust in God alone.

The assurance that everything will be alright is revealed in Paul's letter to the Romans. For "*God makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him.*" The key to human existence therefore is our love for God. God's nature is to love and it is manifested in creation with human beings at the height of that creation.

Finally, Jesus in Matthew's gospel uses parables again to teach those gathered around Him. The kingdom of God is the most precious thing we can hope for. Once finding it, nothing else compares in value. We sacrifice everything worth something to us to possess our inheritance in that kingdom. He further describes the kingdom according to God's plan to reward those who are faithful to Him. Those choosing not to be faithful will be identified by angels and cast out to the "*fiery furnace.*" He questions the Scribes as wise men in the Jewish faith to see whether or not they themselves have understood.

We then are to wish for nothing other than a understanding heart and then remain faithful to God until the end.

Peace,

Fr. Robert