

Rectoría San Juan de Dios
XVII Sunday Ordinary Time-Cycle A
1 Kgs 3, 5-13; Ps 119; Rm 8, 28-30; Mt 13, 44-52
Fr Dante Gabriel Jiménez Muñoz Ledo

Let Us Be Great

In the kingdom of Jesus, we are called to be great. The total commitment that the kingdom demands does not lead us to make great sacrifices or to live in poverty, but to live an immense joy. This is the joy of having discovered something of undreamt of value, something incomparable, something of such value that it will never appear again.

In the context of our current society, many are afraid to be great in the practice of their own profession. And many others are afraid to be great in the practice of their faith. The treasure we look for is not on the surface; careful work is required, at times for years, to find it, to know its value, and to pay the price for it. This requires discernment. It involves awareness that the wisdom we need to become great in the kingdom comes from God.¹

This treasure that Jesus sets out in the parable has a profound psychological charge. We all look for something of limitless depth, something that doesn't end, and something that confirms our longing for fullness—the greatest thing. At times it appears that our life goes by in the presence of a treasure that we long for but don't see. It is as

¹ Pope Benedict XVI showed us a way to find the wisdom that comes from God: *“My real program of governance is not to do my own will, not to pursue my own ideas, but to listen, together with the whole Church, to the word and the will of the Lord, to be guided by Him, so that He himself will lead the Church at this hour of our history.”*

(Homily at the inauguration of his papal ministry, 24 April 2005)

if the treasure were also in our search, waiting for us to make it shine.

Solomon can choose the greatest treasure. The inheritance of his father David does not include the treasure that God will give him. Solomon could lose the opportunity of that treasure that will make him great. It would have been enough to govern without God, from the great power that he had received from his father. But Solomon didn't allow himself to be blinded. The majesty of his kingdom does not belong to him. He recognizes the necessity for God: "*...but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen...Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong.*" The Lord himself granted him the treasure: a wise and prudent heart and incomparable glory and riches.

We want to be great in the kingdom. Let us take on three attitudes:

1-Let us humbly follow

The family heritage. The history of relationships where God has appeared is a responsibility. That heritage is barely useful for entering into our own search. The central value is not the heritage in itself but its purpose: to serve the people, to govern them with wisdom, to distinguish right from wrong.

In the categories of the kingdom, one is not great due to heredity but because of humility and responsibility before God and others.

2-Let us collaborate with God.

St Paul is clearly aware that God is looking for us; we only need to allow Him to lead us to fullness in His plan of salvation. We need to do our part for His *call* to happen, so that He *predestines, justifies* and *glorifies* us.

It is also up to us to reproduce the image of Christ in ourselves.

3-Let us pay the price.

It seems that we spend a great part of our life without objectifying the absolute value, or that we have passed by it because to be great costs a lot. We prefer to stay with the security of what we have; it costs us *to sell whatever we have in order to buy a field, to sell whatever we have in order to buy a precious pearl, or to dare ourselves to separate right from wrong*. In a word: we don't want to pay the price to be great.

In the experience of the kingdom, we have to surrender without fear. To be great implies taking from our treasures of life and wisdom things both new and old, just as a father of a family who, in all he does, puts the value of his family at the center.