

HOMILY SUNDAY XVII ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
ANYONE HOW FINDS A TREASURE IN A FIELD, SELL ALL AND BUYS THAT FIELD

Brothers and sisters... There are decisions that completely change a person's life...

Accepting a new job...

Getting married...

Responding to a vocation...

Moving to another country...

At those moments, one decision reshapes many others... **Suddenly!** things that once seemed very important no longer come first...

Not because they're no longer good, **but because we've found something that is worth so much more...**

That is exactly what Jesus wants to show us today...

He tells us about a man who finds a hidden treasure and a merchant who discovers a pearl of great value...

But notice this... Jesus never tells us **what the treasure looked like or how much the pearl was worth...** Because the center of the parable isn't the treasure... **It's the heart of the person who finds it...**

And there is, one detail we should not overlook...

The Gospel says that the man, **filled with joy**, went and sold everything he had in order to buy that field...

He didn't do it with sadness...

He didn't do it because someone forced him...

He didn't do it feeling that he was losing something...

He did it filled with joy! Why?

Because when someone discovers something truly great, they stop counting what they're giving up and **begin to focus on what they've found...**

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And I think that is one of the most beautiful lessons in today's Gospel... We often think that the Christian life is about

Giving things up...

Letting go...

Making sacrifices...

But Jesus tells the story the other way around...

First comes the discovery...

Then comes the joy...

And only then comes the decision...

No one sells everything in order to look for a treasure...

A person sells everything because the treasure has already been found... **And that changes everything...**

The first reading helps us understand this even better...

Solomon is faced with a decision that will shape his whole life... And, **surprisingly**, he discovers that what matters most isn't having more, but learning to recognize what is truly worthwhile...

Instead, he asks for a discerning heart... Solomon understood that when we discover what is truly important, **everything else finds its proper place...**

Maybe that is the question the Lord asks each of us today... **What has first place in my heart?**

Every day we make choices... We choose where to spend our time, our energy, our dreams, and even our worries... And those choices reveal what we truly consider our treasure...

The Gospel isn't trying to make us feel guilty about the things we've... *Rather*, it invites us to ask ourselves whether we've already discovered the One who alone can truly satisfy the heart... **and that is the Lord!**

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My dear friends, whoever finds the Lord begins to live with a new kind of freedom...

There is no longer a need to hold tightly to everything, because they've discovered the One who gives true meaning to life... Then, almost without realizing it, they begin to see things differently and to give them the place they truly deserve...

Faith isn't about losing things in order to gain God... **Faith is about discovering that, when we find God**, we realize we've never had a treasure greater than Him...

May the Lord grant us the grace to keep discovering Him each day, so that, like the man in today's Gospel, we too may live **with the joy of those who know they've found what is truly worth everything**.

Fr. Moices Rafael C.