

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MATTHEW

1. If God told you, ask for something from me, and I will give it to you
 - a. What would you ask for
 - i. Win lottery, have good health and live long time
 - b. Solomon in a dream is given that opportunity
 - c. He hears God tell him ask for anything you want and I will give it to you
 - d. Asks for Wisdom that he might be a good ruler to judge his people well and guide them in right and wrong
 - e. God is so pleased that he is concerned with his people not for himself
 - f. Not only will I give you wisdom but everything else you did not ask for as well
2. Jesus tells a couple of stories of worldly wisdom to give an idea of kingdom of heaven
 - a. in the world clever people will make an immediate sacrifices for long term gain
 - i. Merchant sees a valuable pearl
 1. Recognizing its value, he will sell everything for that pearl
 2. He will be willing to take a risk, knowing he will be able to make a large profit
 - ii. Realize there is treasure hidden in field
 1. The local laws were that whoever owned a piece of land, had a right to whatever may be hidden there
 2. sell everything to buy field and thus own the treasure
 - b. not everybody is able to recognize the value of the kingdom of heaven
 - i. Need the wisdom to see that what may seem ordinary may really be very valuable
 - ii. Not everyone will be alert enough to see the kingdom of God hidden in the world
3. When we pray what do we ask for
 - a. Are we thinking what we would like in the immediate moment
 - i. Win lottery, be successful in a meeting
 - ii. What is good for me today
 - b. Do we ever pray for to see God's will, what does he want for his people
 - i. How we might fit into that plan
4. Jesus parable telling us prayer should be for gift of wisdom and understanding
5. If we believe in God and resurrection, what are the really important things
 - a. our choices, our wishes and our prayers tell us what is important to us
 - b. do our choices show us the way we really want to live
 - c. are we choosing the hidden treasure, the valuable pearl
 - d. or are we merely wasting our time on trivial attractions of the moment
6. we should be begging God for the wisdom to know the difference and the strength to change whatever needs to be changed to make the wise decisions.