

There are two young people in today's readings: young king Solomon and the rich young man. Both are in search of something "more", both are on a quest. One succeeds and the other is disappointed...and Peter is asking Jesus, what is He going to give them as a reward for following him.

When we say that someone is "**wealthy**," what are we really saying?

Wealth implies **abundance**.

But there are **different kinds** of abundance, different kinds of wealth.

- This rich young man who wanted to follow Jesus had an **abundance of material goods**.
- That's what we **normally** think about when we use the term "wealth."
- But Jesus is telling us in today's Gospel that material wealth can often be an **obstacle** to a more **important** type of wealth, a more **satisfying** type of abundance. Wealth can make us falsely independent.
- The rich young man had many **possessions**, but he **didn't** have "**eternal life**"; he **didn't** have the deep sense of **meaning, purpose, and interior peace** that he longed for.
- There was something **essential**, something in his heart, that material wealth **couldn't satisfy**.

And so, he came to Jesus, to find what was **missing**.

And Jesus tells him.

- First, he reminds the young man of the importance of **moral wealth** by reviewing the basic commandments.
- To be truly fulfilled as human beings, we must fill our souls with **virtue**, with the gospel values, hearing the word of God and act on it, under its inspirations.
- This is the necessary **foundation** for the next and **most important** kind of wealth: **spiritual wealth**.
- Jesus points the young man towards spiritual wealth by inviting him to "**Come, follow me.**" Take the next step in your life; this one is going to take you till the end... *Follow me.*
- **Friendship with Jesus** is the "*treasure*" in heaven, the spiritual wealth that alone will satisfy our deepest yearnings for happiness, the **abundance of wisdom** that today's First Reading speaks so eloquently about.
- But that friendship requires **humility and obedience**, Jesus Christ is more than a **friend**; he is **God**.

The Wisdom of God is what we need; everything else is an investment in that for which we're truly searching.

- The Wisdom of God is described as discovering the love of your life; everything else pales in comparison.
- Wisdom is more valuable than political power.
- Wisdom is more valuable than material wealth.
- Wisdom is more valuable than physical health or beauty.
- Wisdom is the true path to success. And this is ***For what kind of people?***

In today's Second Reading the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that nothing is hidden to the eyes of the Lord, and he can reveal things within us to which even we are blind.

- If the Wisdom of God in the First Reading is described as a splendour that even light itself can't compare, the Word of God in the Second is described as a sharp sword that cuts through any pretensions or illusions we may have about ourselves or others.

'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

What's the best investment you can make with your life now and the future? *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. God's grace within us, is the greatest treasure we can have.

And right after this man refused to follow Jesus, Peter, somewhat crudely wanted to know what he and the other disciples would get out of it since they had freely accepted Jesus' offer to follow him unconditionally. He asked 'What about us?'

The Gospel presents us with a paradox: ***We lose what we keep, and we gain what we give away.*** When we lose our lives for the kingdom, we gain a priceless treasure and an inheritance which lasts forever. Whatever we give to God comes back a hundredfold. Generosity flows from a heart full of gratitude for the abundant mercy and grace which God grants. And generosity will be amply repaid, both in this life and in the life to come.

We need wisdom, we need humility, we need to invest time in prayer; we need to treat others with compassion, we need to listen what the Spirit is saying through our brothers and sisters.

Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

