

Weekly Bible Readings from the Catholic Children's Bible: Week of July 26th

First reading from the book of Kings: 3:5, 7-12 Solomon prays for wisdom.

That night the Lord appeared to him in a dream and asked him, "What would you like me to give you?" O Lord God, you have let me succeed my father as king, even though I am very young and don't know how to rule. Her I am among the people you have chosen to be your own, a people who are so many that they cannot be counted. So, give me the wisdom I need to rule your people with justice and to know the difference between good and evil. Otherwise, how would I ever be able to rule this great people of yours. The Lord said to him, "Because you have asked for the wisdom to rule justly, instead of long life for yourself or riches or the death of your enemies, I will give you more wisdom and understanding than anyone has ever had before or will ever have again. I will also give you what you have not asked for; all your life you will have wealth and honor. And if you obey me, I will give you a long life.

Responsorial Psalm 119: (this is a very long reading, following are a few of the ones I thought relevant to the theme of the day.)

Happy are those who follow his commands, who obey him with all their heart. How I hope that I shall be faithful in keeping your instructions! If I pay attention to all your commands, then I will not be put to shame. As I learn your righteous judgments, I will praise you with a pure heart. Teach me, Lord, the meaning of your laws, explain your law to me, and I will obey it; Keep me obedient to your commandments, because in them I find happiness. Show me how much you love me, Lord, and save me according to your promise. Then I can answer those who insult me because I trust in your word. Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path. You are my defender and protector; I put my hope in your promise.

Second Reading from St. Paul to the Romans – 8: 28-30

We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him, those whom he has called according to his purpose. Those whom God had already chosen he also set apart to become like his Son, so that the Son would be the first among many believers. And so those whom God set apart, he called; and those he called, he put right with himself, and he shared his glory with them.

The Gospel of the Lord: Matthew 13: 44 – 52

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure: "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field. **The Parable of the Pearl:** "Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.

The Parable of the Net: “Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Some Fishermen throw their net out in the lake and catch all kinds of fish. When the net is full, they pull it to shore and sit down to divide the fish: the good ones go into the buckets, the worthless ones are thrown away. It will be like this at the end of the age: the angels will go out and gather up the evil people from among the good and will throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will cry and gnash their teeth.

“Do you understand these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes” they answered.

So, he replied, “This means, then, that every teacher of the Law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of heaven is like a homeowner who takes new and old things out of his storage room.”