

26 July 2020 - Homily - Matthew 13:44-52 - 1 Kings 3:5-12
By: Fr. Paul Magyar

The parables of the treasure and the pearl emphasize that the kingdom of God is such a priceless treasure that a wise man would gladly give all for the chance to seize it. It is a joy of a chance of a lifetime. The parable of the fish net is the same as the parable of the weeds. The kingdom is a mixed body of good and evil people just like the net is full of good and rotten fish. The final sorting of the good and evil is only reserved to God. If any human takes the responsibility of sorting the good and the evil it is evident from the gospel that it will lead to destruction of both the good and probably creating a much larger evil. This is why only God can do the final sorting.

Treasure, pearl and fish are all forms of found treasure. The kingdom of God being the archetype of all treasure. In the first reading from 1 Kings we encounter how we can ask God for the treasure of wisdom. Solomon prays to God and God is pleased with Solomon's prayer: 1) God praises Solomon because he did not ask for a long life, riches or power over other kings. 2) God grants Solomon's request because of its practicality. Solomon is granted a listening discernment and a wise discerning mind instead of riches and honour above other kings. 3) God promises Solomon a long life as long as he follows the example of his father David. Solomon needs to fulfill his responsibilities as a king faithfully. Sacrifice something of value now in order to make your future and the future of others you care for, better.

The gospel of Matthew parables take moral law which is called Halaka and presents it in a storytelling style and encourages others to learn how to do this in order to present the moral law in an appealing and understandable way (haggada) to others. We also know that the Matthew community had Christian scribes. It is understood that this is the pen portrait of Matthew the evangelist.

Praying for all of you
Fr. Paul Magyar