

## **SEVENTEETH SUNDAY – ORD. (A)**

### **ALL THINGS WORK FOR GOOD FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD**

**July 29/30, 2023**

This message is true and is seen in the lives of many people. When there was the need for Abraham and Lot to separate ways, Lot chose the fertile lands and left the less fertile to Abraham, but God blessed that land to be more fertile, (Gen.13). Things turned out to be good for Job, after his ordeal, because he loved and feared God (Job.42:10-16).

Love for God will make us choose what is good and pleasing to Him. Solomon chose wisdom because he wanted to serve his people well, and succeed as a king, and he was given more than he asked for. He was not self-centered but selfless. He had the interest of his people over and above his own.

The two parables in the gospel also tell us how people yearn for what is good and desire to acquire it. The two people sold their property to buy the treasure, and the precious pearl, that each of them found. The kingdom is, therefore, so important that we cannot substitute it with anything. It is very precious and second to nothing. That was why after his conversion, St. Paul told the Philippians that he considered everything as rubbish because of the love of Christ. He said: "If anyone else thinks he can be confident in flesh, all the more can I. Circumcised on the eighth day, of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrew parentage, in observing of the law a Pharisee, in righteousness based on the law I was blameless. But whatever gains I had, these I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. For His sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ, and be found in Him" (Phi.3:4-9).

Everybody wants to succeed in life and achieve the best result of everything. What do I need, and what do I want? What is my soul searching for? Do I want to succeed in my life and attain the ultimate prize of salvation? Solomon asked for wisdom and understanding, the Psalmist loves the law of the Lord, because the law from the mouth of God means more to him than large quantities of silver and gold. The man and the merchant were filled with joy because they found the most important things they were looking for. Is what I am looking for going to last or will it disappear one day? Is it the kingdom, the salvation of my soul, or the fleeting riches of the world?

Some of us are looking for what will bring us fame, much wealth, joy and happiness from material things, so it is very difficult for us to renounce ourselves of all earthly pleasures and take on Christ. If I love God, all things will work well for me, so there is no need to worry about what to eat or what to drink. I have been called by God through His Son and He wants to justify me and glorify me. But I have to clear from my storeroom what is old and keep what is new, that is, to live a new way of life that will lead me to the kingdom.

Like the dragnets, many are called but few will be selected and chosen. I should not deceive myself thinking that since we are all Christians, and we are all in the net so I will be taken home as good fish. My being chosen, and you being selected, depends on how we love God and fear Him; how we embrace the teaching of Christ Jesus.

If I love God, my sorrow will be turned to lasting joy, my failures will end up in success, misfortune will become fortune, and my death will lead to eternal life. I should depend on God for His wisdom and guidance; I should persevere in hardships and search for what is right and precious in the eyes of God, because the wages worth more than the labor. My soul should yearn for the living God as the deer yearns for running streams, (Ps.42).