

A woman found a lamp at a rummage sale and as she was examining it a genie popped out. “Do I get three wishes?”, the woman inquired. “No, I am only a one wish genie. So you better make it a good one.” The woman showed the genie a map of the world and wished that certain countries would stop their fighting and hateful ways. “Well I’m not that powerful. Try again.” Okay the woman thought, “I would like to meet a good man who is considerate, loves kids, is filthy rich, likes to cook and clean up after himself and doesn’t sit on the couch and watch sports all day.” The genie paused for a moment and then said, “Where is that map of the world?”

Imagine if we were in the shoes of that woman. What one wish would we ask for? When Solomon asked for wisdom in our first reading today, it showed that he was already wise. Unfortunately he didn’t keep using his wisdom to serve God’s people well. His wise ways faded when he married too many women and spent his country into bankruptcy, so much so that when he died the country split into two kingdoms pretty much isolating the kings who were

descendants of David and Solomon. Solomon stands as a case of someone who had wisdom but did not make good use of it.

Wisdom is a precious gift that must be cherished and respected.

Take for example the people in the parables in our gospel today. When they found the treasure and the pearl they spent everything they had to acquire those riches. What would we be willing to spend all of our money on, like those people in the Matthew's gospel? While we might think that these parables are no brainers considering that our treasure would of course be the Kingdom of Heaven and that we would do whatever necessary to attain it. The subtle message in these lessons is that those who found the treasure and the pearl made acquiring them their highest priority. Can we make the same sacrifices in our attempts to acquire the Kingdom of God? Certainly everything we have attained up to this point will give us some satisfaction but things of this world are temporary. To find the Kingdom of Heaven is to find happiness forever. What could be more important then that?

At the end of the gospel Jesus asked his followers if they understood these things. Let us pray for the wisdom to understand, not as with the wisdom of Solomon but with the wisdom of a faithful follower of Jesus.