For this reason the Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord’s Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the Bread of Life, taken from the one table of God’s Word and Christ’s Body.” Dei Verbum, 21

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1: 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12
Reading 2: Romans 8: 28-30
Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52

Reading 1: 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12

In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said: Whatever you ask I shall give you. Now LORD my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed David my father; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act—

8 I, your servant, among the people you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted.

9 Give your servant, therefore, a listening heart to judge your people and to distinguish between good and evil. For who is able to give judgment for this vast people of yours?”
The Lord was pleased by Solomon’s request.

So God said to him: Because you asked for this—you did not ask for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies—but you asked for discernment to know what is right—

I now do as you request. I give you a heart so wise and discerning that there has never been anyone like you until now, nor after you will there be anyone to equal you.

How is Solomon’s request for discernment between right and wrong different from Eve’s seeking that same knowledge? Why is God pleased with one but not the other?

If you could ask God for anything, what would it be?

Responsorial Psalm 119

Lord, I love your commands.

I have said, O Lord, that my part is to keep your words. The law of your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Let your kindness comfort me according to your promise to your servants. Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.
For I love your commands more than gold however fine. For in all your precepts I go forward, every false way I hate.

Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them. The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple.

**Reading 2: Romans 8: 28-30**

28  
* We know that all things work for good for those who love God," who are called according to his purpose.\textsuperscript{u}

29  
* For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.\textsuperscript{v}

30  
And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

**Have you ever been challenged by the idea that all things work for good for those who love God?**

**Do Catholics believe in predestination? See CCC 600 & 1037.**
600 To God, all moments of time are present in their immediacy. When therefore he establishes his eternal plan of "predestination", he includes in it each person's free response to his grace: "In this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place." For the sake of accomplishing his plan of salvation, God permitted the acts that flowed from their blindness.

1037 God predestines no one to go to hell; for this, a willful turning away from God (a mortal sin) is necessary, and persistence in it until the end. In the Eucharistic liturgy and in the daily prayers of her faithful, the Church implores the mercy of God, who does not want "any to perish, but all to come to repentance":

How can predestination and free will be reconciled?

Gospel: Matthew: 13: 44-52

• "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls.

46 When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.
Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind.

48  When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away.

49  Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

*Treasures New and Old.*

51  “Do you understand all these things?” They answered, “Yes.”

52  *And he replied, “Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”*

What do the treasure, pearl and fish tell you about the kingdom of heaven?

*St. Augustine’s said: the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.* What does this saying have in common with the last line of the Gospel?
Realistically, how are we called to live out this Gospel of giving up everything for the kingdom of heaven?