

All Saints Parish

Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, July 26th

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to his disciples: "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. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. 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. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. 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. "Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." 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."

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People may not always see the treasure God has placed within you, so don't place too much value on the opinion of others. Trust that God knows what's in you, and He will choose you even when others overlook you.

How can my love for God and His commands help me to find true treasure?

First Grade

We have many different rules in our life. What are five different rules that you have to follow every day? Where did those rules come from? Do you find it easy or hard to follow the rules and listen to the adults in your life, such as your parents? Why is following the rules a good thing? How can following the rules make you happy?

Second Grade

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that heaven is like fishing with a net, where all sorts of fish are caught – the good are kept and the bad are not. What are at least five things that you need to do to be good. Do you love doing those things or are they hard for you? How can you work to make sure that your life is a good one and that you are on the road to heaven?

Third and Fourth Grades

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that heaven is like a treasure in a field that we find and then sell everything we have to keep it. What do you think is good about heaven? Name at least five things. What is something that you know you will need to do to go to heaven one day? What is something that you are doing that you will need to stop in order to go to heaven one day?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

A treasure is something that we want and will make us happy. Besides money, what are some treasures that you want to find that will make you happy? Pick one thing that you think is a treasure. What do you need to do to achieve it? How can following God's Commandments help you to be happy and achieve this treasure?

Seventh and Eighth Grades

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that heaven is like a pearl that a fisherman has been searching for and finally finds. Is heaven something that you are willing to work your whole life to achieve? How are you working towards going to heaven now? Name at least seven ways. What are some things that could be stopping you from being happy and finding heaven?

High School and Adults

We often think of rules, such as the Ten Commandments, as burdens and not things to love. How do you feel about rules? Do you see them as difficult to follow? What is good about having rules? When are sometimes that having rules have helped you to be happy? How can the Ten Commandments help you to be happy?

For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

Monday

Step one in loving and following God's Commandments is knowing what they are. Today, see if you can list the Ten Commandments. Once you list as many as you can, look them up online and make sure that you have all ten correctly written down. Put them in a place you will view often so that the more you see them the more you will think about them.

Tuesday

After we know what the Commandments are, step two is looking which ones we are already love and are following easily. Today, either in your personal prayer or in a conversation with someone, go through the Ten Commandments and check off the ones that you follow easily and are not a challenge for you. Thank God for this!

Wednesday

Step three in loving the Commandments is being aware of which are difficult for you and why they are still necessary. Today, look at the rest of the Commandments that are harder for you to follow and live out. For each one, think about and list at least five reasons that it is a good rule to follow and why following would make you happier.

Thursday

The next step, step four, before we even work on following the Commandment, is to ask God for His help. Today, when you pray, ask God to help you with first having the desire to want to follow the Commandments that are difficult, and also for the strength to stay strong when tempted and challenged. We need His help if we are to succeed!

Friday

Step six is making changes. If we are going to follow God's Commandments and find happiness, then we need to make some changes. Today, choose two things in your life that you will change to follow the Commandments more perfectly. Also, think about what you will need to do to follow through with the changes.

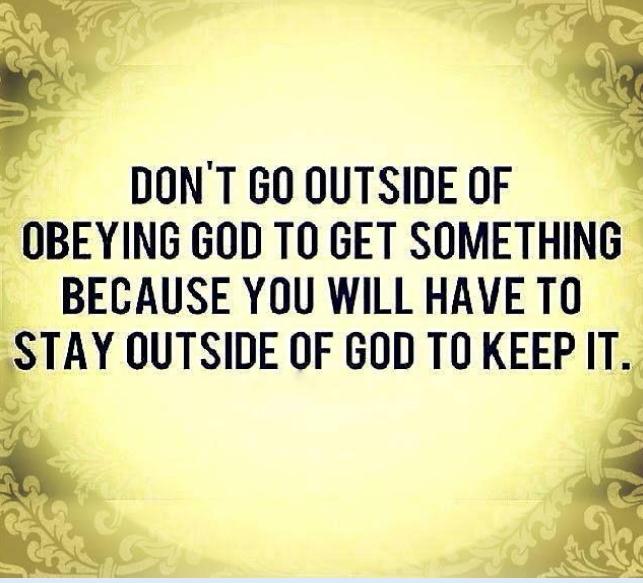
Saturday

Finally, step seven is to be patient and keep repeating this process. As the two changes you make get easier, choose something else to change in your life to follow the God more perfectly. This will take time, your whole life in fact, so always be patient with yourself and with God. You will still make mistakes, but God is always there with you.

FROM THE CATECHISM...

The Ten Commandments belong to God's revelation. At the same time they teach us the true humanity of man. They bring to light the essential duties, and therefore, indirectly, the fundamental rights inherent in the nature of the human person. The Decalogue contains a privileged expression of the natural law: 'From the beginning, God has implanted in the heart of man the precepts of the natural law. Then He was content to remind him of them. This was the Decalogue.'

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2070



**DON'T GO OUTSIDE OF
OBEYING GOD TO GET SOMETHING
BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE TO
STAY OUTSIDE OF GOD TO KEEP IT.**

Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at www.usccb.org. Use the calendar on the right.

Isaiah 55:1-3 Psalm 145:8-9,15-16,17-18 Romans 8:35,37-39 Matthew 14:13-21