**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10/13/2024**

**I am sure you remember the story of Solomon in Hebrew Scriptures**. He was given the choice of asking for whatever he wanted from God. He chose **Wisdom**. God praised him and granted his wish.

Our first reading today says **Wisdom** is of greater value than a throne, riches, gold, silver, even health and good looks.

Our psalm response, psalm 90, has us praying to keep in mind the shortness of earthly life that we may gain **wisdom** of heart. And the **wisdom** being taught in today’s Gospel is to not cling to money or anything else that prevents us from following Jesus with all our hearts.

In the work of the Missions, **prudence** is crucial. The missionary has a big, overall purpose: to proclaim the kingdom of God. But how can that happen? What is the best, right, little steps that lead to that solemnly important goal? If, like the author of the book of Wisdom, the missionary prays and receives prudence as a gift then he can have faith that the way will be made clear over time, step-by-step.

**For the sake** of our own spiritual growth, let us imagine ourselves like the young man in today’s gospel kneeling before Jesus, and in response to our question of what we must do to inherit Eternal Life He responds, **“You are lacking in one thing**.” What is that one thing?

Is it: **Faith?** That is, really believing that all things are possible with God and therefore we do not need to cling to our time and Treasure.

**Hope?** That is, are we lacking in childlike trust that lets go of anxiety, worry, fears and discouragement?

**Love?** That is, is our circle of love exclusive or conditional according to our likes and dislikes or it all inclusive and unconditional like Jesus? Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta is a wonderful example of people who loved everyone, without exception, with open arms.

**The important thing** is not what we are lacking. The important thing is that like the rich young man we have the desire to improve, to grow to be more than we are now, and unlike him to have the Wisdom, which freely gives to all those who ask Him, to follow Jesus’ whole heartedly.