

Nineteen Sunday Ordinary Time C 2022
Wis. 18.6-9///Heb. 11.1-2,8-19///Luke 12.32-48

→this past week, on the drive home from visiting some friends in northwest...I was listening to talk radio when I heard perhaps one of the most peculiar conversations I have ever heard....

→it seems that in the Los Angeles area they have a number of establishments called a “water bar”

→and what that is...is a bar that serves different waters from around the world and country.

→and as the conversation continued...the more bizarre it became...because they listed prices for a glass of plain ordinary drinking water from different places...for an example, a glass of London England water is \$12.00...a glass of South African water is \$18.00 and a glass of Beverly Hills water goes for \$42.00 a glass....

→now have you heard of anything so bizarre....charging outrageous prices for a normal, ordinary glass of water.....and what makes this even more ironic...is that this is actually happening while millions of people go without enough water on a daily basis.

→it was just one of the many ironies of this world and life....but when you think about it we are often confronted with many such ironies

→pick up any tabloid devoted to the rich and famous and you will be confronted with page after page of the ironies of life

→one such is irony that we have all become aware of is that: success is not always a guarantee for happiness...in fact, success is often accompanied with tragedy and scandal

→the recent billion dollar Mega Millions jackpot highlighted...on most news outlets...how winning the lottery usually results in heartbreak and misfortune...

→likewise often do our headlines tell of bitter divorces, drunken driving, anorexia, abuse, drug overdoses, and jail terms for the rich and famous, the wealthy and “so-called” powerful.....

→the irony is that those who have usually been given everything often find themselves struggling just to survive ...

→and.....conversely...at the same time....we are **also** often inspired by those gifted people who share their talents, wealth, and success with others

→and I am you will agree...that our greatest satisfaction in life often comes not from accumulating or holding on to our wealth or gifts

→.....but instead, by letting go and sharing our gifts....our treasures with others

→after all...aren't we taught from a very early age...that it is better **to give than to receive!**

→and today's readings...certainly point to this teaching....

→our scripture readings are about letting go of that which we possess in order to attain a greater good

→---and letting go sometimes takes a great amount of courage and faith

→....it is always a great risk...or it takes a great “leap of faith” to give away what we have --- in the hope of getting something much greater in return...and yet isn't that what life is all about?

→in the 1st reading, God's chosen people...rejoiced at their exodus from Egypt...but it also took a great leap of faith and trust leaving behind what was comfortable and moved towards the promised land

→in the 2nd reading, Paul makes reference to faith being "the realization of things we hope for"

→he speaks about Abraham who takes a leap of faith setting out "**not knowing where he was going**" in search of the "**city designed and built by God**"

→and furthermore, it was his wife --/-- SARAH --/--her faith in God that enabled her to have a child

→and finally, in today's gospel, Jesus promises the kingdom to those who willingly let go of their attachment to earthly possessions and prepare themselves for the treasure of heaven.

→recall the very powerful words of Jesus..... "***for where your treasure is...there also will your heart be***"

→undoubtedly for Abraham...his only son ISAAC was his treasure...but ultimately Abraham's heart was with God

→and when God demanded the sacrifice of Isaac...Abraham took a leap of faith...ready to sacrifice his prized treasure

PAUSE

→all of us, in some way, have an Isaac in our lives....a treasure that promises us our heart's desire...yet I believe the lesson of this reading for us today...is that it is important that we recognize what we truly treasure most in life

→in a little book called “**Radical Grace**”...the author responds to the statement of Jesus... “*where your treasure is, there your heart will also be*”by saying that ... probably the best statement about what we hold as our real values, the real important principles in life....can be found by looking at our checkbook register

→the author tells the story about a family, who at the beginning of each month, the parents and their children gather around...as they prepare to write the monthly checks for the necessary bills and for those in need.

→and as the parent’s write out the check they explain to their children why these people are more in need than themselves....and the author concludes by saying...that might be one of the best forms of religious education for young children

[and I would tend to agree!]

→without a doubt for most of us....money is our most tangible treasure

→and it takes a great leap of faith to give away our hard earned cash and the dreams that come with it

→however...we live in a time...when our wants...and desires can be insatiable at times...and perhaps we really need to begin to ask ourselves... “when is enough...enough already?”

→and to remind ourselves...that true joy and happiness in life comes about not by acquiring everything.....but more so by sharing of our treasures...our treasure of wealth, time, talents, skills, knowledge and compassion towards and with others

PAUSE

→we hear at the end of today's gospel... *“much will be required of the person entrusted with much...and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more!”*

→I am sure there will be plenty of opportunities for all of us in the coming week to open our hearts and share our treasures

→and perhaps we it would behoove us to do just that....

→to take advantage of the many opportunities we have to share our treasures to those in need...so that we too might be ready when the Lord comes at an unexpected hour!