

First Reading: Wisdom 18.6-9

Second Reading: Hebrews 11.1-2, 8-9)

Gospel: Luke 12.32-48

Michael Dougherty in his short reflection from Living With Christ asks: “Where is our treasure? Where is our heart?” He then tells us that the answer is in today’s readings which with our “daily actions at work or play continually prepare us to live God’s word.”

The book of Wisdom tells us how God told his children in advance - to prepare for their deliverance from Egypt; “the night of deliverance was made known beforehand to our ancestors, so that they might rejoice in sure knowledge of the oaths in which they trusted.” They needed to trust in what God had promised them because those promises were their treasures. I invite you for a moment to ask yourself “what is it that we trust God to give us above all else?”

Now I invite you to hold on to the thought and look at it in the coming days.

The readings from Paul’s letter to the Hebrews and the Gospel are quite long, but today we heard the abbreviated versions; still - they speak to us about how to prepare for the treasure that we will be given to fill our hearts.

Paul writes of how God prepared Abraham not only for descendants (too many to count) but also a city for them to live in – a city that Abraham himself would never see. It is the gift of “Trust” which Abraham offers to God – he will trust in God’s promise.

But It is the Gospel which touches me the deepest and that I want to focus on: “Do not be afraid, little one, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give

*you the kingdom. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven... **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***” And it continues with how we can prepare ourselves for that treasure.

My friend William Barclay¹ refers to this as being “the time when God’s summons enter a person’s life, a call to prepare to meet our God”. And we prepare for that by doing what needs to be done at the moment rather than putting it off until later; by ensuring that we are always at peace with one another – we never know when God will come for us, And perhaps most importantly - what God wants most from us – that is “to find ourselves at peace with Him”. God does not want to be considered as a stranger or some far distant friend. Hopefully what we want is to meet God and run into Gods embrace.

That’s where the treasure is – that is the treasure!

And isn’t this why we all gather here together today? Our treasure is already here within us and so we continue to recognize and acknowledge it with each other.

How wholehearted is our faith in God when it comes down to actually living it in today’s life? Do we really believe that God has prepared a place for us or do we live as if it is up to us to do the job for him?”

At the end of July I took part in the Indigenous Pastoral Leadership course offered by St. Paul University and I took it in the spirit of a retreat. On the 2nd last day some of the elders in our circle shared what was in their

¹ William Barclay, The Gospel of Luke p198

medicine bundles – a sacred or medicine bundle is a wrapped collection of sacred items, used in ceremonies² - Gifts from the Creator that can be used for healing and are often associated with relics within the Catholic Church – they are a demonstration of the Holy Spirit. I sat there thinking that I was not indigenous and did not have a bundle. Yet even as I thought this - my hand moved up to touch and hold my cross.

This is my bundle. This is one of my treasures, perhaps my deepest and most cherished treasure – more than just a symbol - it is the core of my heart.

Every day is a preparation, every day is an opportunity to recognise and focus on the treasure that we carry in the present moment.

What do I put my energies into? My response will speak volumes of my preparation. I repeat the invitation that Fr. Ken offered us last weekend – to look inside of ourselves to find what is most important for us to carry. Where and how do we carry and hold our treasures? What do we allow to reside in our hearts?



² According to Patricia Deveraux, a member of the [Blackfoot Confederacy](#) in Alberta, "These are holy bundles given to us by the Creator to hold our people together... They're the same as the relics from the Catholic Church. They are a demonstration of the Holy Spirit. They can heal people."