



BLD Trenton



# Community News

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

Our life in Christ is fruitful when we treasure the kingdom of God like a pearl of great price.

### PROMISE:

*"All things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."* (Rom 8: 28)

### WORD:

1 Kgs 3: 5, 7-12/ Ps 119: 57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/ Rom 8: 28-30/ Mt 13: 44-52

### ORDER:

- Ask something of me and I will give you my wisdom and understanding heart. (1 Kgs 3: 5)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Seek first the kingdom of God above anything else.
- Invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Shepherd one another.

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## Discipleship Cost And Reward

### REFLECTION:

The Parables of The Hidden Treasure and The Pearl of Great Price focus on the precious VALUE of the Kingdom of God.

In the first parable, Jesus tells us about a man who finds a treasure in the field and hides it and sells all that he has and buys that field. In the second, he tells us of a merchant in search of fine pearls who eventually sells all that he has and buys the pearl.

These parables tell us what it means to follow Jesus. What it means to be Disciples of Christ. Looking at these parables with discipleship in mind, we see three main parts. First is discovery, second is cost and third is reward. They are important for understanding the meaning of discipleship.

Discovery. All of us discovered Jesus whether we are like the merchant searching or like the man who accidentally discovered Him. Some of us are searching until now, searching for a deeper faith, or a deeper relationship with Jesus. Searching to be drawn closer to Him, to know more about Him. We want to discover more about Jesus.



Some of us were not searching - but we found Jesus. Like those who attended the Marriage Encounter weekend or Life in the Spirit seminar because your spouse wanted you to go or because you could not say no to your relatives or friends. But nevertheless, you stumbled upon Jesus and now you found Him.

So, after we find Jesus, what happens next? In the 2 parables both men, when they found the treasure or pearl, they were so filled with JOY that nothing else mattered. They sold and gave up everything else to claim their new found treasure.

This brings us to the second part - the cost. Jesus makes it clear that we should not let anything keep us from entering the kingdom of God. St. Paul, in the second reading, exhorts us that we need to be conformed in the image and likeness of our Lord Jesus. We must be willing to sacrifice whatever is necessary to gain salvation and eternal life. The fame, the power, things we possess and enjoy in this world should not become an obstacle in our relationship with God. We have to remember that God's deep-

*Discipleship - See Page 2*

## Tending the Flock

## Acting With An Upright Conscience

Solomon inherited a very demanding task and the responsibility that lay heavily on his shoulders was great for a young king...And here we see the greatness of Solomon's soul. He did not ask for a long life, nor wealth, nor the elimination of his enemies; instead he said to the Lord: *"Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong"* (1 Kgs 3:9).

Therefore he prayed God to grant him "an understanding heart". What do these words mean? We know that the "heart" in the Bible does not only indicate a part of the body, but also the centre of the person, the seat of his intentions and opinions. We might say: the conscience. Thus an "understanding heart" means a conscience that knows how to listen, that is sensitive to the voice of truth and for this reason can discern right from wrong.

In Solomon's case, the request was motivated by the responsibility of leading a nation, Israel, the people whom God chose to show the world his plan of salvation. The King of Israel, therefore, had to try always to be in tune with God, listening to his word, in order to guide the people on the paths of the Lord, the path of justice and of peace.

However, Solomon's example is valid for every person. Each one of us has a conscience so as to be, in a certain way, "king", that is, to exercise the great human dignity of acting in accordance with an upright conscience, doing what is right and avoiding wrong.



*~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, July 24, 2011*

### Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**.  
Donate link can be found at  
[www.bldtrenton.com](http://www.bldtrenton.com)

Or mail check to:  
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1367  
Toms River, NJ 08754

### The Lord's Provision

**July 21, 2023**

Tithe :\$345.00  
Love Offering :\$199.00

*Thank you for your generosity!!!*

### God's Blessings

#### Birthday

Nestor Vasquez	7/26	Rose Nacionales	8/1
Jojo Cac	7/29	Grace Antona	8/2
Domenick Palumbo	7/30	Ruby Brooks	8/2
Art Butulan	8/1	Krisnan Delacruz	8/2
Gina Ramos	8/3		

#### Anniversary

Borge & Jan Bacus	7/28
German & Letty Butay	8/1

### Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407  
For Prayer Service - Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962

*Let your kindness comfort me, O Lord,  
according to your promise  
to your servants.*

### BLD Olympics 2023 Community Day

Please come and Join Us for an All Day of  
Fun, Food, and Games!!!

August 12, 10:30 AM to 5 PM

Veterans Park  
489 Forest Hills Parkway  
Bayville NJ 08721

### Gaze Of Love

Faith is born and reborn: not from a duty, not from something that is to be done or paid, but from a gaze of love to be welcomed. In this way Christian life becomes beautiful, if it is not based on our abilities and our plans, but rather based on God's gaze. Is your faith, is my faith tired? Do you want to reinvigorate it? Look for God's gaze: sit in adoration, allow yourself to be forgiven in Confession, stand before the Crucified One. In short, let yourself be loved by him. This is the starting point of faith: letting oneself be loved by him, by he who is father.

~ Pope Francis

### "Life In The Spirit Seminar"

October 27-29, 2023  
St. Veronica Church, Howell New Jersey  
For all inquiries and registration,  
Contact: Toy and Malen Juarez (609-954-2300) | Bong and Faye Dizon (732-604-7690)  
Email: bldtrenton.iss@gmail.com

*"Behold,  
I make all  
things new."  
Come... Holy Spirit... Come...*

### Discipleship - Cont'd from Page 1

est intention is not that we stay as we are, but rather that we change, renounce our sins, and conform our life to his will.

This is not easy to do on our own. We need God's wisdom to search and discern where the Lord is calling us so that we may know what path to take. Just like Solomon, we need an understanding heart to make the right decisions. We are to invoke the Holy Spirit always - for wisdom and strength - so we can opt for what can help us in the future and not for immediate satisfaction.

To consider the things of this world as less valuable, in comparison to the kingdom of God, does not mean that we have to despise them. It just conveys that we have to see them as means that God has put at our disposal in order to make our life easy and to use them in building His Kingdom here on earth.

St. Paul inspires us of the promise

from the second reading: *"All things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose"*. The sacrifices that we have made and the sacrifices that we are called upon to make in the days to come are outweighed by the value that we will receive, which leads us to the third part which is joy and reward.

With Jesus, we will be filled with Joy, and the benefits and blessings that are ours in the kingdom. We will have new life in Him where our records of sins are wiped away. We become citizens of His kingdom, adopted sons and daughters of God, heirs of heaven - we will live and reign with Him in the Kingdom. Isn't that awesome?

Discipleship with Jesus is not just about knowing, but it is living and loving it - loving our God, loving our neighbors. We, who have encountered God in a deep and personal manner in our lives, need to share this joy with others. We are to share this "treasure"

with the people around us. Let us then start, or continue, to invite family and friends, coworkers, our social group, young and old - invite them to activities, like our Friday P&W, praying that they will find their pearl or eternal treasure in their attendance. We can be vessels in bringing Christ by inviting them to the Life in the Spirit Seminar and the Solo Parents Encounter.

Yes, we are to bring Jesus to them; they need to see Jesus in us. If our heart, our treasure, is in Jesus, our brothers and sisters will receive from us a treasure that is always patient, kind, never jealous or boastful, that is generous, never takes pleasure in other failings but delights in the truth, is always trusting, always hopeful, and that endures whatever comes. Let's just invite people, and surely, God will do the rest. Because no matter how we find God in our lives, no matter what it will cost us, it will bring us an unbelievable joy...Amen! 🕊