**Divine Wisdom is A Necessity for Good Decision**

*Fr Louis Fowóyò̩*

Do I see leadership as a place of service or otherwise? What qualities make a good leader? How can we apply the idea of servant leadership in our own lives? How can we help those around us develop leadership skills?

* Every leader is supposed to lead towards ultimate goal. Our ultimate goal in life is to live a better life now and hereafter. This is why a good leader is better than a bad one. A good leader does not depend on its own prowess.
* Good leaders appreciate that they are not in position for personal gains but for their growth and the people they lead. Good leader is one who helps us to find satisfactory meanings for a better, healthy and everlasting life. A good leader leads towards the Kingdom of God.
* **Pope Francis**: “The Kingdom of Heaven is the opposite of the superfluous things the world offers, the opposite of a dull life: it is a treasure that renews everyday life and leads it to extend towards wider horizons.”
* The Bible stories, are geared towards leading us to the kingdom of heaven. This is because, they want us to reconnect with the creator that we lost His friendship through the sin of Adam and Eve. They lead us towards wider horizons.
* The readings of today, give us the stories of the people endowed by God to lead towards a wider horizon. The first reading is that of king Solomon and the second is the parables of Jesus in the Gospel are examples today.

1st Reading: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; is the story that teaches about the importance of wisdom and how it can help us for good governance and decision making.

* Solomon was asked in a dream to request for something important in his life that he will be happy to see done for him.
* “O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. (…). Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong.”
* His request for wisdom is a sign of a humble person who realize the magnitude of his office. He knows that it is impossible for him to do it alone. He requested for assistance from the only one who can help him bring the people to their ultimate goal.
* God is always willing to bless the people that seek wisdom and righteousness. This is why He granted the request made by Solomon. Up till today, Solomon is still referred to as the wisest man that ever lived.

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52; Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven like a treasure buried in a field, like merchant who finds a pearl of great price and like a net that collects fish of every kind.

* “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.”
* The reactions of all the three, really excites me. They were all filled with so much joy that they consider their wealth as something they should dispose of in order to acquire the new-found life.
* These people disposed off of a lower wealth in order to purchase a higher one.

Psalm 119 says that “The law of your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces.”

* In the world we are to work for God’s purpose in life. It is for this purpose that Solomon asked for wisdom. It is for this purpose that Jesus gave us the parables about the higher values of the kingdom of heaven.
* The response of the persons who discover the treasure, and the valuable pearls show the joy and willingness to sacrifice worldly possessions in order to acquire the kingdom of heaven.
* As followers of Jesus, just like Solomon is king of his people, so we are leaders of the world and as leaders we are trained for this kingdom and we should do our best to make it realizable in our lives. Amen.