

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith In Laity Corner



17 Sunday Ordinary Times

Ask With Caution!!

Readings 1Kg. 3:5, 7-12; Rm. 8:28-30

Over my life's years after speaking and pleading with God, I have learned the hard way, you have to be careful for what you ask God! This 17th Sunday of Ordinary Times, the Scriptures teaches the need to ask that we may receive. Yet, I venture to say '**ask with caution**'. Often times prayer is lifted up for something we *think* is needed. When it comes, it is a total disaster.... hmmm. We want to change our minds... Sometimes there is the effort to 'try' to bend the hand of God, then He allows it.... and we sorely live to regret.

The 1st Reading is a great example of asking... If God put to you today, this question.

"God said: Whatever you ask I shall give you." (1Kg. 3:5)7-12

Let us be honest and serious, what would your response be? I guess for me, there is some doubt that my immediate response -would be a wise one. For what would you ask? What does this say about Solomon? To give such a thought provoking response can only be, that he was thinking about how to deal with a difficult situation; this matter weighed heavy on his mind. The character of Solomon has been truly revealed, when he gave God this response.

"Give your servant, therefore, a listening heart." (1Kg. 3:9)

A person does not receive wisdom, without the capacity to accept it. How many times do we meet people who may be given sound advice; but do not have the capacity to accept and act on a wise move. Why? The heart is not open to wisdom.... Humility is the key here; this is a humble fact, of the limitations of youth.

"I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act." (1Kg. 3:7)

Those who are able to embrace wisdom, they must first be humble.... Solomon was humble, to ask God as a young person, who is trying to learn the skill of making sound decisions.

“The Lord was pleased with Solomon’s request.” (1Kg. 3:10)

That is an excellent complement bestowed on Solomon by God, His response displayed pleasure. Then God reviewed the regular working of the human mind.

*“..... A long life for yourself,
nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies.” (1Kg.3:11)*

Seeking for what is close to our mind and needing to fulfill our earthy desires, well most likely be our answer. God’s response to Solomon’s reflective thinking, reminds us that we need to seek a better understanding of His Will over our own self-interest. Nothing is more like God than-giving us more than we can imagine or even dream to ask for

*“I give you what you have not asked for:
I give you such riches and glory that among kings
there will be no one like you all your days.” (1Kg. 3:13)*

He gives us our heart’s desire; but we have to show our willingness to be humble. With humility and seeking God’s Will this is the response.

“I now do as you request.” (1Kg.3:12)

The reward that God bestows on us, is always that He gives us so much more than we can ever imagine. God’s generosity knows no bound.

*“I give you a heart so wise and discerning,
that there has never been anyone like you until now,
nor after you will there be anyone to equal you.” (1Kg. 3:12)*

History even today, extols the ‘wisdom’ of Solomon. Queens and dignitaries travelled far and wide to sit in the presence of this man of wisdom. Asking for an understanding of others, God just kept adding to what Solomon already had. Yet, riches will not destroy him, as long as he

“Walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandment....” (1Kg. 3:14)

It is always with confidence we are able to ask God that His Will be done in our lives; we may never understand the why or the how. Yet we know that whatever happens, this is our firm belief

“We know that all things work for good for those who love God.” (Rm. 8:28)

*May we pray for our government officials, that their mission is to feed the poor, provide relief for the sick,
justice for those imprisoned/*

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by
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