

Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering will be in two weeks on Sunday August 13th at 3pm. Please put this on your calendar and bring a friend.
- We have restarted Childrens Ministry, led by Cecilia Briseno with the help of Gracie Wagner and Eliana Medina, for all children ages of 5-10. They meet during the prayer meeting following praise & worship until the closing prayer (approximately 3:30-4:20pm). Please help pass the word to young families.
- 50th Anniversary content is available here; past prayer meeting audio is here, Word Gift summaries are here, and transcripts are here.
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online here or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Laurie and I returned from our blessed vacation and are grateful to Bob Montgomery who led things in our absence and for all of you who prayed for us.

In praying through the readings today and asking the Holy Spirit for a specific message for us, Jesus' two-part message in the Gospel was compelling. Jesus tells three stories to convey what the Kingdom of heaven is like.

Those who are familiar with the no-limit poker game Texas Hold'em are familiar with the bet 'all in' where the player bets all the chips/money they have. They are communicating that they are so confident in their hand that they will risk everything. This was the point Jesus was conveying to His disciples in the first two parables. The Kingdom of Heaven is the destination of all who are willing to totally surrender, put everything on the line, hold nothing back, and focus our total attention on the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

This was the disposition of Solomon in the First Reading. He was close enough to God to recognize His voice and resist the urge to focus on himself. He willingly asked for a heart for God's people. This was the disposition of all those who formed the Christian Community of God's Delight. When we were founded many sold homes and moved closer together; prioritized marriage, parenting; and Community ministry services over careers; and daily prayed and followed the Holy Spirit's direction.

Jesus continued His instruction about the Kingdom of Heaven with a third parable teaching how important it is to never lose sight of our eternal destiny. Maybe this is the single most significant challenge we face in life. The world, the flesh, and the evil one continuously bombard us with temptations and distractions. Jesus is teaching that we must live every moment of every day with an eye always on His promise of eternal life and not fall, as we learn later in 1 Kings that, Solomon does.

Together the messages of giving up everything and living with our eternal destiny in mind, are perennial topics made even more critical when we face either life's temptations or mysteries. Some of us may be wrestling with temptations or distractions from our three enemies. Some of us may be suffering from life's mysteries such as job loss, health loss, relationship challenge, or even the tragic loss of a loved one. The words of the [Second Reading](#) are our battle cry: "*We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*" I cannot count the number of times I have said these words to myself. When we are amid whatever trial life is throwing at us...they are the words we can live by!

Living every day totally sold out for God, willing to put everything on the line for Him, never losing sight of our promise of eternal life, *is possible* because of our confidence that 'ALL things work for good'. These are words we have lived by and will continue to live by, together as sisters and brothers, until we are all united with Him in paradise.

Let us pray, "Lord Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, I do go all-in for You totally surrendering myself and all I have and hope to be to You. I promise, with the help of Your grace, to never lose sight of Your kingdom and to rely on Your promise that everything will work out for my good as I keep my eyes on You and trust in Your providence. Please bless the Ramos family this week and all my Community sisters and brothers who may need Your providential grace and support. I love You Lord."

God Bless,
David