

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, July 26, 2026
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle A

Have you lost the excitement in your faith?

Today's Gospel is filled with excitement. Jesus tells us about a man who unexpectedly discovers a treasure hidden in a field. He tells us about a merchant who has spent his life searching for fine pearls and finally finds one of incomparable value. In both stories, something remarkable happens: they are captivated.

Notice what Jesus emphasizes. The man who finds the treasure "goes in his joy" and sells everything he owns. The merchant willingly gives up all that he has to possess the pearl. They are not acting out of obligation or fear. They are moved by overwhelming excitement because they have found something infinitely more valuable than anything they could lose.

This is what the Kingdom of God is like. Christian discipleship begins not with rules but with an encounter that captivates the heart. Before we give anything up for Christ, we first discover the incomparable beauty of Christ Himself. When Jesus becomes our greatest treasure, sacrifice is transformed into joy. What once seemed impossible suddenly becomes worthwhile.

Think of the saints. St. Francis of Assisi gave up wealth because he found a greater treasure. St. Thérèse of Lisieux embraced a hidden life because she was captivated by the love of Jesus. The apostles left their nets not because someone forced them, but because they were fascinated by the One who called them. The co-founder of e.l.f cosmetics now Fr. Scott left everything to become a priest.

As faithful disciples, we all need to ask ourselves: Have I lost the excitement of discovering Christ? Sometimes our faith can become routine. We continue to practice our religion, but the wonder is gone. We fulfill our obligations, but the joy has faded. Today's Gospel invites us to rediscover the thrill of belonging to God's Kingdom.

The greatest evangelizers are not simply those who know the most. They are those who are visibly captivated by Jesus. Joy is contagious. A joyful Christian attracts others because people can see that he or she has found a treasure worth living for.

That is why to keep that joy and excitement in us we are called to appreciate the timeless truth of the Gospel while continually discovering its fresh beauty. The Kingdom never becomes outdated. Every day Christ offers us a new reason to be amazed by His grace.

As we celebrate this Eucharist, let us ask the Lord for the grace to fall in love with Him again. May our hearts be captivated by His presence. May we never lose the excitement of knowing that we have found the greatest treasure of all—Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

And when the world sees our joy, may they too begin searching for the treasure that can never fade. Amen