Homily, 27th July, 2016

Today the liturgy of the Word gives us a particular Jesus's teaching, that we might call sapiential and absolutely prudential.

The Lord Jesus came into the world to offer everyone the Kingdom of Heaven.

There is, therefore, a free gift offered to all, but it demands that there be a reception ability; the determination of those who hear his proposal and their attitude are not irrelevant. It is not enough to be generally available to accept his gift; also the receiver must do something, something special that the Gospel shows us today.

The Lord shows us the Kingdom of God, but, on reflection, He speaks more about the **conditions** to receive it rather than the Kingdom itself.

What are these conditions that the Gospel invites us to take into account?

- The first is to realize that we had found a treasure.

In the first example it is presented a farmer who comes across a treasury "by chance", he receives it for free. Here is, therefore, underlined the fact that the gift is for free.

The Lord warns that the farmer **has to realize that he had found a treasure**, because if he does not consider and does not evaluate the object found is a treasure, he runs the risk of throwing it away...

But, by thinking of this particular wealth he has found, his heart fills with joy and so, for fear that someone else will find it before him, he hide it until he has bought the field.

As you can see, there is a whole series of things that the believer must do to receive what God wants to give.

One of the most important things that each of us should do is to realize the impact, the wealth of the treasure that is the Kingdom of God.

- In the second example, that of the merchant, there is a different shade: it is **the same merchant** who goes around to look for the precious pearl.

So, the Kingdom of God is offered both to those who seem to not look for it, as a farmer who ploughs, and those who are seeking, who has realized that in life you have to search and find the precious pearl.

In both cases, therefore, God is offered; but, in either case, God requires full understanding and full reaction: the merchant sells everything he owned to buy the pearl; the farmer sells everything to buy the field where the treasure is.

Let us ask the Lord today to be aware of the treasure that has already been donated us.

May God help you to discover the treasure that is in you.

Praised be Jesus Christ.