

## **17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

To plan and manage our lives, we adopt role models. We select people who lead successful public lives. Caution should be taken when we make these selections

In the OT, Solomon is considered the wisdom role model. In the first reading, God appears in a dream and grants his wish for wisdom. Although this suggests that he is a role model, further reading shows that he imposes heavy taxes and uses forced labor of his people for his projects. He is not the role model we seek.

In the second reading, Paul speaks of the destiny of mankind for God's benefits. They can share in this by responding in faith "to be conformed to the image of His Son." This image is our role model, the exemplar of God's design for humanity.

In the Gospel, the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 parables speak of two values: the value of the object, and the behavior of those who sell all. The later is(are) role model(s) for growth in the kingdom. The stages are: 1<sup>st</sup>-normalcy, 2<sup>nd</sup> discovery, 3<sup>rd</sup>-overturning the past, 4<sup>th</sup>-new world. The total reversal of one's life for the kingdom is the challenge Matthew holds out.