

July 27, 2008
Sunday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Psalms 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

Romans 8:28-30

Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. ¶When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

Someone recently said to me that they found the Christian life to be much simpler than most people make it. "All we have to do is love one another," they said. I thought of all the ways we struggle to let go of the selfishness in our life and all the ways we stumble and fall. Could it be that simple? Is love that simple? If, so why is our divorce rate still hovering around 50%? Why do we have workplaces full of tension? Why do so many children still go hungry? Why are so many families without health insurance and thus without healthcare? Where do we start? How do we make it simple? How do we love one another one day at a time, one person at a time, right here and right now, without thought to what it costs? That is what the kingdom of God is for me: a life here and now where love abounds, where the only thing that matters is the dignity of all. That is the pearl of great price. What am I being asked to give up today to make the kingdom of God a reality?

Who so loves, believes the impossible.
Elizabeth Barret Browning