

In the 1991 Stephen King movie, *Needful Things*, an elderly gentleman opens a curio shop in a small Maine town. The townsfolk soon discover that among the merchandise in the store are their “heart’s desire” - whether that is a rare Sandy Koufax baseball card, a cure for arthritis, or a piece of wood from Noah’s Ark. The items are all reasonably priced - but each comes with a catch - a consequence - which begins to destroy the relationships of the townspeople.

By the end of the movie, the town is literally burning down from the breakdown of relationships among individuals, families, and neighbors in the town.

While the material prices for the items were small, the unseen - relational prices - were such that the town was destroyed.

In the first reading, we hear of the blessings on Jerusalem and Israel brought about by the wisdom of Solomon. Yet later in his life, Solomon begins to compromise on his relationship with God - despite his God-given wisdom - and the result is the breakdown of Israel.

And in the Gospel, Our Lord makes clear that it is not what goes into a person physically that makes a person clean or unclean - but rather what is in their hearts and minds and actions.

Let us examine our own inner motivations - and reflect on our own heart’s desire. Do we desire to please God at all times - or is our heart divided between God’s will for us and our own will for us.

May the graces of today’s Eucharist strengthen our relationships with both God and our neighbor ... and may our desire for God intensify ... drawing us ever deeper into the loving heart of the Trinity ... Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.