

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday Oct 9 for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER: God of Wisdom, pour out your spirit of wisdom upon us as we gather to share your word. Help us to value you above all things. Open our eyes to see the “one thing” that prevents us from having a closer relationship with you. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO Mark Mk 10:17-30

17ⁱ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”
18 Jesus answered him, “Why do you call me good?*- No one is good but God alone.

19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.’”ⁱ

20 He replied and said to him, “Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth.”

21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

22 At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

23* Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”^k

24 The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

25 It is easier for a camel to pass through [the] eye of [a] needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, “Then who can be saved?”

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God.”

28 Peter began to say to him, “We have given up everything and followed you.”

29 Jesus said, “Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel

30 who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.

Notes

* [10:18] Why do you call me good?: Jesus repudiates the term “good” for himself and directs it to God, the source of all goodness who alone can grant the gift of eternal life; cf. Mt 19:16–17.

* [10:23–27] In the Old Testament wealth and material goods are considered a sign of God’s favor (Jb 1:10; Ps 128:1–2; Is 3:10). The words of Jesus in Mk 10:23–25 provoke astonishment among the disciples because of their apparent contradiction of the Old Testament concept (Mk 10:24, 26). Since wealth, power, and merit generate false security, Jesus rejects them utterly as a claim to enter the kingdom. Achievement of salvation is beyond human capability and depends solely on the goodness of God who offers it as a gift (Mk 10:27).

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. Attachment to material possessions hampered the rich young man’s relationship with God. What one thing might be blocking you from having a closer relationship with Jesus?

2. In the last sentence, Jesus promises his followers “a hundred times more now ... with persecutions.” Have you experienced the ‘hundred times’ and the ‘persecutions’? What has kept you a follower?
3. Name one thing today’s Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed/act on.

Commentary

This is lesson six on the characteristics of true discipleship. It deals with the dangers of material wealth. A rich young man is asking Jesus: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” His concern raises an important theological question: Can one gain eternal life on his/her own, or is it a gift from God? It seems the young man thinks he can gain eternal life by performing good actions in addition to keeping the commandments. The fact that the young man is a keeper of the commandments shows that he is indeed a good man. But then Jesus pulls out his “two-edged sword” and penetrates into the heart of the man. With his “lightning rod,” Jesus shows the young man that he is not nearly as devoted to God as he thinks. Jesus invites him to let go of passing wealth so that he can acquire everlasting wealth. His attachment to his material wealth has become an obstacle to a deeper relationship with God. His riches are his real god and security. The verses which begin with “how hard it is for a rich man” would have blown Jesus’ audience away, given that the contemporary belief is that wealth is a sign of God’s favor. Here Jesus is taking the traditional teaching about wealth and standing it on its head. The reference to “a camel passing through the eye of a needle” is a hyperbole stressing the great danger of riches and how attachment to them can be a great threat to our salvation. Material wealth is not an obstacle to salvation if one knows that he/she cannot buy his/her way to heaven and if one generously shares his/her material riches with the poor. With God, all things are possible. It is even possible, if not likely, that one can look upon wealth as always inferior to his/her relationship with God, and use wealth to bless others. Verses 28-30 deal with the benefits of renunciation. Peter, feeling a little self-righteous, and having left his fishing business, asks: “What of us? We have left all to follow you.” Jesus responds that there will be blessings in this life and the next. This Sunday’s Gospel is a serious warning on how material riches can be a big obstacle to one’s relationship and discipleship with God and others. Riches and our love of them may steal our hearts.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom
Wednesday, Oct 9 6:30 – 7:30pm
Weekly on Wednesday
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting
Time: Oct 9, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY)

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618
Passcode: 280607