

Living the Word

MEDITATING ON THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Year B - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A resource for personal, family and community prayer.



“Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come follow me.”

Gospel: Mark, 10: 17-27

You are invited to read the Gospel passage attentively, respectfully and reverently as a gift of God.

¹⁷ Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, “Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.¹⁹ You know the commandments: you must not kill; you must not commit adultery; you must not steal; you must not bring false witness, you must not defraud; honour your father and mother.”²⁰ And he said to him, “I have kept all these from my earliest days.”²¹ Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, “There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”²² But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

²³ Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!”

²⁴ The disciples were astounded by these

words, but Jesus insisted, “My children,” he said to them, “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 a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”²⁶ They were more astonished than ever. “In that case,” they said to one another, “who can be saved?”²⁷ Jesus gazed at them. “For men, it is impossible, but not for God because everything is possible for God.”

Background to Gospel passage

Where does it happen? Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem.

When does it happen? Time is short and the formation of his disciples has become his priority.

Who is there? The rich young man who is looking for a deeper and fuller life, Jesus, who is keen to show him the way, and the disciples who were shocked to hear his teaching on the lure of riches.

What happens? The encounter with the love of Jesus challenges the rich man to find his security not in his riches, but in God’s love. Sadly the attachment to his wealth is too great and he can’t let go. Entering into the kingdom- a new life of joy, freedom and wholeness is only possible with the help of God.

Suggested Guidelines to help you recognise this passage in your life experience.

‘Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’

Can you remember a time in your life when things appeared to be going well but there was a restlessness in your heart; you were longing for something more - for a deeper and fuller life?

‘Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him.’

Can you remember a profound experience of God’s love (in prayer, people, nature, etc)

that touched you deeply liberating you from old attachments that had once defined you (possessions, popularity, success, resentments, old wounds, prejudices)?

‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.’

Remember the times when you were moved to give thanks to others for their goodness. In their humility they responded, ‘Don’t thank me, thank God.’

What does this gospel remind me of? Where was it? When was it? Who was there? What happened?

Now I see that God was in that life experience!

Prayer Response - you are invited to respond in prayer in your own words.

Heavenly Father, I thank you...

Heavenly Father, I am sorry...

Heavenly Father, please help me...



You are invited to deepen this prayer experience by resting your heart silently in God's presence and love. The quiet repetition of a word or phrase from the passage may help you on this journey to stillness and silence.

An Invitation to Reflect

What new insight has the Gospel opened my eyes to see?

Action

This week I will try to live the Gospel by...

Thought for the week

“Excessive attachments prevent us from becoming more fully human and fully alive.”

Rest in this truth, hold it in prayer and trust that it will bear fruit in your life.

Children



Jesus speaks to his disciples about what we can do to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus asks us to give up all we have and to put our relationship with him first.

Can you think of a 'Jesus person' in your life - a parent, grandparent or teacher- who has encouraged you to have a relationship with Jesus?

Draw or write about this 'Jesus person' and how they taught you to have a relationship with Jesus.



Father, I thank you for the gift of this story which has opened my eyes to see the importance of my relationship with Your Son.

Action: this week I will try to show love by...

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