

MARK 10:17-30

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?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. 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.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' 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.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' 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! 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.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

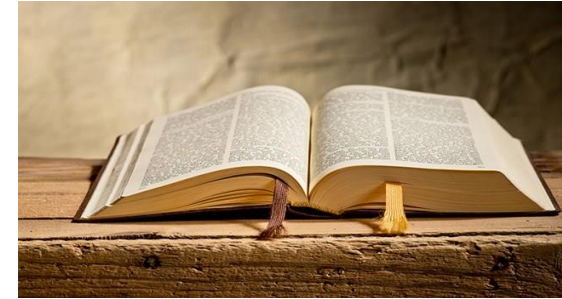
COMMENTARY: When we examine our lives, we only need to ask: how is my heart? The man asking about salvation had kept the laws but had yet to discover *loving God*. His heart had a greater love.

It is often said: God will not be outdone in generosity. Perhaps then we might reflect on whether this is our experience.

Liturgy of The Word

13.10.24

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**Fill us with your love,
O Lord, and we will sing for joy!**

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy to balance our affliction
for the years when we knew misfortune.

Show forth your work to your servants;
let your glory shine on their children.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

WISDOM 7:7-11

I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

COMMENTARY: We notice that Wisdom is personified here. This means that when we know the person, we will have the wisdom of that person. Hence, when we know God, we have the wisdom of God. It is worth much more than any material thing.

If this wisdom is the foundation of our spirituality, all else will be cared for: love of the poor, justice, care of the planet etc because we will be filled with love. God is after all, love.

This does not mean though that we don't need to check to ensure that we are not just resting on our laurels. It is possible to be in that state of thinking, that because we believe in God, all is well. No, such belief carries a responsibility. Love for God must flow over into love for the poor etc.

HEBREWS 4:12-13

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

COMMENTARY: When we read scripture, we need to pray it or rather to hear it. We need to let it rest on us. Then, little by little it sinks into our spirit, bringing consolation and enlightenment. At the same time it helps us awaken to our own truth which may be the realisation of our human frailty and our brokenness. By fearfully acknowledging this we discover the healing power of God's word.