

# Sunday Message

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • 13 October 2024 • Psalter Week 4

## THE RICH AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

MARK 10:17-30



Jesus and the rich young man in Grace Church, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Sometimes when we read a Gospel passage, it is possible to pick up a certain atmosphere or feeling when we immerse ourselves into the world of Jesus and his followers.

The rich man presents himself in front of Jesus today and one can sense the enthusiasm from him. He wants to join the entourage of followers and become a disciple of Jesus. "What must I do?", he asks. The fatal question you might say! He's going to get an answer that will move him from enthusiasm to great sadness. "Sell everything you have, give to the poor and come follow me," says Jesus. The famous phrase that knocked the stuffing out of the rich man. We might find a certain portion of this Gospel scene entertaining as the man leaves Jesus and goes back to his life of great wealth. But the teaching is quite profound. Jesus turns to his followers, who have witnessed this scene and tells them that those who leave everything behind to follow Jesus, will be repaid a hundred times over. This is in recognition of the many sacrifices the disciples have made to follow Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem. ■

### SAY

"Give something, however small, to one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."  
(Saint Gregory of Nazianzus)

### REFLECT

I don't play the Lotto but I know a lot of people who do. A recent jackpot in a part of the United States gave 800 million dollars to the winner. I'm not too sure what I'd do with it if I won, but 800 million dollars might be a step too far. It could very well be the ruination of me!

There is nothing wrong with money as such, or even with being wealthy. Some of the world's greatest people who did most for the welfare of humanity, have been wealthy people. But at a deeper level the fact is that I own nothing and my hold on things is provisional, temporary. 'There are no pockets in the shroud,' and, 'there is no hitch on the back of a hearse', are two sayings that come to mind!

Then there are some who give up everything to follow Jesus. He doesn't call everybody to do this. But being a follower of Jesus does mean having to leave something behind. It involves a change of priorities, a new way of valuing things. Those who leave everything to follow Jesus are among the most blessed of people, dedicated souls like Padre Pio, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, aid workers in places torn by war and disease, and many other unsung heroes. Such people are blessed with the riches of God's grace and bring much blessing to the lives of others. ■

### DO

How can you be of service to God's people this week? Is there reluctance in you to volunteer for a worthy parish initiative? How can you support your fellow lay missionaries?



### LEARN

"The source of the Church's mission is the conviction that Christ is risen and fully alive and present to the community of believing Christians." (Archbishop John Nienstedt)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But with you is found forgiveness,  
O God of Israel.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,  
at all times go before us and follow after  
and make us always determined  
to carry out good works.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Wisdom 7:7-11

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

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.  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 89 (90): 12-17

Response:

Fill us with your love that we may rejoice.

1. 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. (R.)
2. 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. (R.)
3. 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. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 4:12-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

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.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord  
of heaven and earth,  
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to  
mere children. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 10:17-30

[Shorter form read between >> (Mk 10:17- 27)]

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark.

>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."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful  
with the sacrificial offerings,  
that, through these acts of devotedness,  
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The rich suffer want and go hungry,  
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord,  
that, as you feed us with the nourishment  
which comes from the most holy Body and  
Blood of your Son,  
so you may make us sharers of his divine  
nature.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Do not grieve over temptations you suffer.  
When the Lord intends to bestow a particular  
virtue on us, He often permits us first to be  
tempted by the opposite vice. Therefore, look  
upon every temptation as an invitation to grow  
in a particular virtue and promise God that you  
will be successful, if only you stand fast.

St Philip Neri

