

October 14, 2018 The Rich Man
Reading I Wisdom 7:7-11
Reading II Hebrews 4:12-13
Gospel: Mark 10:17-30

Where your treasure is, there your heart shall be.

The first reading speaks of Wisdom as a beloved woman. She was valued more than power and wealth, preferred over gold and precious stones. All good things came to those who sought Wisdom instead of material things. Wisdom, the relationship with God, is more priceless than all the treasure in the world. It is God's gift as it shows true insight into a life of integrity.

Jesus is journeying to Jerusalem with his Disciples, often stopping along the way to preach and heal. Perhaps the young man heard some of what Jesus was preaching and felt it was something he wanted to be a part of. Jesus' challenges the young man to look at what it is that is most important in his life, what he can't let go of, what holds him back. The commandments Jesus mentioned all entail how we live and how we treat others. Doing no harm to anyone is less important than what has been done to help someone.

Originally money was a way to share and exchange goods and services. You help me build my house and I'll give you three goats. The more material things one had, the more power they had. Money can become a battle between our money interests and the calling of our souls. When our soul is dominant we act with integrity, thoughtfulness, generosity and oftentimes we are courageous and committed to others. We feel at peace within ourselves and are a part of a larger, more universal experience, greater than ourselves. Even if we fall short, with God, all things are possible. Hanging on to excess wealth deprives us of the opportunity to serve others. We are unable to pursue that which is really valuable: wisdom, prudence and God's love and promise of eternal life in the kingdom of God.

Jesus is asking us to spend our talents, our special and unique gifts on doing good for others. Jesus challenges us to accept the real priorities in life and the values we live by. Jesus is looking for us to see in the needs of others what we are meant to give away. We give God the highest praise when we use our gifts as they were meant to be used.

Life is not about things but about our relationship with God and with people. Both these relationships are important in life. They provide what we need and wait in turn for us to give back. Relationships are a sign of the presence of a loving God in our life. We can live a deeper, more genuine life with God at the center. By developing an honest love of God and humanity we can live a life of true heartfelt faith as did those who have inspired and encouraged us along the way. That is Wisdom.

We never doubt for a moment what Jesus valued in life. Jesus' relationship with God is a model for us. Discipleship is all about trusting in God, as Jesus did. Rejoice in the day that has been given to us and give thanks in all circumstances. We are sustained by the Eucharist and God's unending love for us. We seek the grace to live a life that demonstrates Wisdom and peace to others. The core of the Eucharist is the miracle of love. Everyone is invited to join in.

We are blessed to be witnesses to the call of priesthood by Kathy Carpenter and Kathy RigordaEva. After much thought, discussion and prayer they have discerned Jesus' call to them of ministry, to serve others. They will have a long journey ahead of them, one of sacrifice, study and much contemplation. They will be letting go of what will hold them back. Through our love, support and prayer they will continue on this journey, relying on God's grace as their strength. Reliance in God's grace is the way to Wisdom that will free them from whatever might impede their faithful following of Jesus.

Last Saturday, many of us attended the memorial service for Paula Davison, to show our love and support for Ed. Later at 4:00 mass Barbara Rado was prayed over by all those present. It was very powerful. This is us, being in community with others.

Life is a journey on the way to a God who goes the full way with us, no matter how far or how dangerous the way, or how long the journey will take. Jesus is inviting us to be part of his family of followers from all paths of life, to become true sisters and brothers in faith. Jesus was formed and guided by the words of scripture. The gospel is our foundation for all we do and a guide for our lives. Who can be saved? For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God. Where your treasure is, there your heart shall be.